



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE NOREEN S. KOKORUDA
ONE HUNDRED FIRST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
HOME: (203) 245-9054
Noreen.Kokoruda@housegop.ct.gov

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR

RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
AGING COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of H.B. No. 6285 An Act Concerning Smoking In Motor Vehicles

Public Health Committee

March 11, 2015

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, and Representative Srinivasan, and all other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 6285, An Act Concerning Smoking in Motor Vehicles.

I believe that we all know that effects of smoking are incredibly detrimental to one's health. An unfortunate reality is that smoking is not only hazardous to the smoker, but also to those in close proximity. All too often the people most impacted by second hand smoke are the children of smokers. Second hand smoke can cause many often-serious health challenges for children. According to the Center for Disease Control, secondhand smoke increases risks of severe asthma, respiratory infections, ear infections, and even sudden infant death syndrome.

The effects of secondhand smoke are exacerbated when it occurs in a poorly ventilated motor vehicle. This bill will help protect our most vulnerable from what can be long-term health problems. HB 6285 serves to protect the health and safety of children who according to state law must be restrained in a car seat.

Many might say that this is an overreach by government, or that this law is infringing upon personal freedoms. I ask you to remember that just as the State of Connecticut stepped up and protected our smallest and youngest citizens with past seat belt and car seat safety regulations – this is a logical next step.

Louisiana, Arkansas, California, and Maine, have already passed legislation that is consistent with HB6285. Nothing presented in this bill is unprecedented. Please support the well being of our state's children and support HB 6285. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Noreen Kokoruda
101st District
Madison & Durham