



CONNECTICUT SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

Statement of the Connecticut Society for Respiratory Care

In Support of House Bill 5453

March 2, 2016

Good Afternoon Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Ritter and members of the committee. My name is Connie Dills and I am president of the Connecticut Society of Respiratory Care. I very much appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Smoke Exposure to Minors in Vehicles Working Group over the last 4 months and our members support H.B. No. 5453- *An Act Concerning SMOKING IN MOTOR VEHICLES*.

As is well referenced in the report, the harmful effects of secondhand smoke have been extensively studied and validated. In addition to the toxins and carcinogens present in airborne tobacco smoke that are inhaled by all passengers in the vehicle including children, these same toxins and carcinogens deposit in residual form into the upholstery and onto other surfaces where children touch, and then as all children do, put their hands in their mouths, thereby ingesting them through their oral mucosa. Also, children exposed to cigarette smoke are more like to develop asthma and bronchitis.

Children are captive audiences in motor vehicles. They do not have the ability to remove themselves or refuse being exposed to this type of hazardous environment. The environment inside a vehicle where tobacco smoke is present is contained, very concentrated and dangerously high in carbon monoxide as well.

I urge you to review the report and referenced documents submitted by the working group, and make your informed decision for helping protect the children of CT from developing preventable chronic respiratory illnesses. Thank you.