

Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.

By
Nancy Alderman, President

Bill 5289

To Chairmen Senators Gerratana, Somers , Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee:

Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) is in strong support of Bill 5289 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT.

It is important to protect the public from having to breathe in other people's second hand smoke form their e-cigarettes. The exhaust from e-cigarettes is not benign - in fact it is harmful to health for the following reasons.

We know from previous research that levels of chemicals like formaldehyde and other aldehydes, which are known carcinogens, are in e-cigarettes.

As well, a trio of scientists from different labs unveiled new data from tests in cells and animals showing that e-cig vapors can impair behavior, harm the immune system, harm male sperm and threaten heart health. But all vapors are not alike. In fact, those vapors become more toxic the hotter an e-cigarette gets - and the more it's used.

A growing number of studies find that some of the liquids used in e-cigarettes contain flavorings whose inhalation has been associated with lung problems, ranging from irritation to a rare but serious lung disease. For example, diacetyl, a butter-flavored chemical, has been linked to dozens of cases of bronchiolitis obliterans, a life-threatening obstructive lung disease.

Many "Vaper's" use e-cigarettes with flavors.

"When we saw flavors were being used in e-cigarettes, we wanted to put the word out right away that it's a possibility that flavors being inhaled through an e-cigarette could also be harmful," said John Hallagan, the association's senior adviser and general counsel of the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association, which represents the U.S. flavorings industry. "Flavors are not made to be inhaled," he said. "In the absence of safety information, what we're saying is we really need to pay attention to this from a safety perspective."

Another study examined 30 e-cigarette liquids and found that many flavors - including a cotton candy, a bubble gum and a French vanilla - contained aldehydes, a class of chemicals that can cause respiratory irritation, airway constriction and other effects. The 2015 paper described two flavors, a dark chocolate and a wild cherry, that would expose vapers to more than twice the recommended workplace safety limit for the aldehydes vanillin and benzaldehyde. Different brands and even different batches of e-cig liquids can contain different amounts of flavoring chemicals.

The public should not have to breathe in the harmful exhaust from e-cigarettes.

Thank you for your attention,

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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