



## Connecticut Department of Public Health

### Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 20, 2018

Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
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### House Bill 5289 - An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding The Clean Indoor Air Act

The Department of Public Health (DPH) thanks the committee for raising the Department's bill, and for providing us an opportunity to testify on this important issue. The proposed enhancements to the Clean Indoor Air Act contained in this bill are evidence-based strategies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Surgeon General. They have been shown to protect nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke, reduce tobacco use initiation among youth, assist smokers in quitting, and prevent tobacco-related illness and death.<sup>1</sup>

The harm caused by exposure to secondhand smoke is extensive and well-documented, and the U.S. Surgeon General has determined that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.<sup>2,3</sup> Comprehensive Clean Indoor Air Laws are one of the most effective interventions to protect non-smokers from the health effects of secondhand smoke.<sup>4</sup> Smoke-free environments also help to prevent youth and young adults from starting to use tobacco, and support smokers who are trying to quit. Establishing smoke-free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure, as research has shown that secondhand smoke cannot be controlled by ventilation, and creating separate areas does not eliminate the hazard of exposure to secondhand smoke.<sup>4,5</sup>

Section 2 applies the proposed enhancements to the Clean Indoor Air Act to electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), vapor products and liquid nicotine containers. Most ENDS products contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.<sup>6</sup> The aerosol produced by ENDS can contain ingredients such as nicotine, ultrafine particles, volatile organic compounds such as benzene, and heavy metals such as lead.<sup>7</sup> These ingredients are harmful to the person that is vaping, and potentially harmful to the public's health.

Prohibiting smoking and the use of ENDS and vapor products in the following areas is recommended to protect students, employees, staff, and visitors from exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol:

- All workplaces with one or more employees - employers would no longer be allowed to designate smoking areas inside the worksite facility;

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- Any area within 25' of the outside of any doorway, operable window or air intake vent of worksites, and all buildings and facilities covered under the Clean Indoor Air Laws;
- All school buildings, and anywhere on school property at all times;
- Motels, hotels, and similar lodgings.

The bill makes a technical change by eliminating an exemption to the Clean Indoor Air Law for correctional facilities and psychiatric facilities. Smoke free policies are already in place in these settings. Additionally, the bill will limit smoking in any public housing project constructed on or after October 1, 2018, and authorizes the landlord of a public housing project or multi-family building to incorporate smoke free provisions into their leases.

These changes will protect more Connecticut residents from the health effects of secondhand smoke and also support those who are trying to quit. Nonsmokers who breathe secondhand smoke are exposed to many of the same toxins and carcinogens as smokers, and 48% of nonsmoking Connecticut middle and high school students reported breathing secondhand smoke during the past week through the 2015 Connecticut School Health Survey.<sup>8</sup> Reducing exposure to tobacco use is another step towards prevention of youth tobacco use, as it denormalizes tobacco use. The less often youth see someone smoking or vaping the less likely they are to start.

Adopting a more comprehensive clean indoor air act will reduce tobacco-related disease as well as the related health care costs, which are currently \$2.03 billion each year<sup>9</sup> in Connecticut, \$520 million<sup>10</sup> of which is covered by Medicaid.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

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<sup>1</sup> The Community Preventive Services Task Force. *Reducing Tobacco Use and Secondhand Smoke Exposure: Smoke-Free Policies*. 2012. <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/tobacco-use-and-secondhand-smoke-exposure-smoke-free-policies>

Accessed 2/15/2018

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. 2014.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report to the Surgeon General*. 2006.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *STATE System Smoke Free Indoor Air Fact Sheet*. September 30, 2016.

<sup>5</sup> American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc. *ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke*. 2010. Reaffirmed June 29, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2018. *Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/24952.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. 2016

<sup>8</sup> Connecticut Department of Public Health. Data from the Connecticut School Health Survey, Youth Tobacco Component. 2015

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Morbidity, and Economic Costs (SAMMEC) System. *Smoking-Attributable Expenditures for Connecticut* (SAE) 2009. Accessible via [cdc.gov/oshdata](http://cdc.gov/oshdata).

<sup>10</sup>The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. *The Toll of Tobacco: Smoking-Caused Monetary Costs in Connecticut*. 2018. Accessed via <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/connecticut>.

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