

Testimony of Environment and Human Health, Inc.

By Nancy Alderman, President

Raised Senate Bill 326

Bill 326 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF FLAVORED CIGARETTES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS.

To the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Senator Mary Abrams, Representative Jonathan Steinberg, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is in strong support of Bill 326

E-Cigarette flavors need to be banned. Flavored e-cigarettes have helped attract a young audience, and at the same time they also have their own toxic consequences.

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.

E-cigarettes are presently unregulated. More than 7,700 e-cig flavors are being sold under more than 450 brands, with no labeling or testing requirements.

Jessica Barrington-Trimis, an epidemiologist at the University of Southern California who studies tobacco's health effects, said that flavorings are particularly worrisome because they "have a history of being known respiratory toxins." Barrington-Trimis, who spoke at an FDA panel looking into e-cigs in March of last year, said that because the devices produce an ultrafine aerosol, the vapors with their chemical flavorings go deep into the lungs.

Menthol cigarettes have now been banned in many countries and our neighboring state, Massachusetts, has also banned them. It would be important for human health to get menthol cigarettes banned in Connecticut. The Food and Drug Administration has found that **menthol cigarettes** likely pose a public health risk above that seen with **non-menthol cigarettes**.