

Jackie Lunn

From: patpatkat@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 1:06 AM
To: Jackie Lunn
Subject: Fwd: House Bill 2324: Electronic Cigarettes

Jackie, Please copy this email to me and we will distribute it to the committee at the hearing on electronic cigarettes on Wednesday. Pat

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul McElroy <pcm1123@gmail.com>
To: patpatkat <patpatkat@aol.com>
Sent: Tue, Feb 7, 2012 5:53 pm
Subject: Re: House Bill 2324: Electronic Cigarettes

Dear Chairwoman Colloton,

This is in regards to House Bill 2324 intended to ban the sale of "electronic cigarettes" to minors.

I follow news about e-cigarettes that comes out of other states. And every time a minor ban on the sale of e-cigarettes is passed, inevitably there is a legislator who goes to the media and says, "By passing this bill, we have acted to protect minors from the tobacco industry's insidious marketing to youth." As a proud Kansas citizen and personal vaporizer user, I implore you not to fall into this trap, and instead simply say that you are being proactive in banning the sale of this product to minors.

The Tobacco Industry doesn't produce or manufacture the vast majority of electronic cigarettes sold today. Current producers and retailers of the devices also do not market them to minors, in my experience.

In response to Todd G. Thompson's endorsement of House Bill 2324, I would like to point out that users of "electronic cigarettes" have no desire to see minors in possession of the propylene glycol liquid with nicotine added to it. However, "e-cigarettes" are a product intended for the 40 million adult smokers in this country, many of whom are unwilling or unable to quit nicotine altogether. Note that "e-cigarettes" are estimated by the American Association of Public Health Physicians to be at least 99% less hazardous than smoking, and that testing on "e-cigarettes" have only revealed *trace* levels of carcinogens -- about the same amount in the nicotine patch, and approximately 1400 times less than what one is exposed to in a Marlboro Light.

Lastly, I would like to tell you a little about my own experience with electronic cigarettes. I had been a smoker for three years having started in college at the University of Kansas. When I came back to Topeka I decided to try electronic cigarettes and tried two different companies' products. After using them on and off for about a year, I stopped smoking cigarettes and using the electronic cigarettes altogether, simply because I didn't like the taste of cigarettes anymore and the electronic cigarettes were far less addicting for me and I felt after a few months of use that I didn't need the nicotine as much anymore. I quit because I gradually broke my addiction and lost interest in the electronic cigarettes. I should point out that this was a unintended outcome. I originally wanted to continue using the electronic cigarettes as a replacement for smoking, but I actually broke my addiction to nicotine altogether!

Nonetheless, all nicotine-containing products should be kept out of the hands of minors, and all use by minors should be strongly discouraged. However, the regulation of the "electronic cigarette" industry should stop there, if you ever want to see them being used to help adults quit real cigarettes, like I did. Todd Thompson's letter to you expresses a very tangible desire to have electronic cigarettes banned altogether and this is a mistake, for if I hadn't had them I would still smoke a pack of cigarettes every four days instead of being completely nicotine free.

Thank you for reading,
Sincerely,
Paul McElroy
(785)-215-1644

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Committee
2012 Session
Date 2-8-12
Attachment # 4-1