

Abel, Pamela

From: Heather Hughes [hughes.vintages@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 10:23 AM
To: Health; Cynda Solberg; jerry.halvorson@gmail.com; Wilcox, Judy; Edgar, Mark; Phair, Matthew; Lasky, Pat; Sieling, Renae
Subject: Public E-Cigarette Ban

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for your time in this matter. I am a life-long Wisconsin resident and currently live in Sheboygan County. My family and I frequently visit Madison for shopping, activities, and vacations. We love your city and our state capital. I writing in concern to the Madison Wisconsin E-cigarette Use Ban. I started using an e-cigarette in September of 2013 after a back surgery in June of the same year. I am 36 years old now and the mother of 3 children. I have a rare medical condition that caused me to be diagnosed with emphysema when I was only 20 years old. I tried every other method out there to quit smoking and unfortunately was not able to do so. As everyone knows the lifespan of a COPD patient, especially one with emphysema and one lung surgery already under my belt, is about 20 years. Before my back surgery I felt like my lungs were drowning in fluid every day. I was always sick, had a constant cold, and was very limited to what I was able to do for activities. Within 2 months of switching from cigarettes to a vaporizer (e-cigarette) my life began to change. My doctor was absolutely stunned when I went in for a checkup. He had not heard my lungs so clear in over 15 years. I told him how I quit smoking and about e-cigarettes.

My health has improve majorly since I began "Vaping." I am now able to play basketball with my children, take long walks, I have only had one cold in over a year now, and I have also met 100's of wonderful people through what we call the "Vaping Community." To say that e-cigarettes changed my life is an understatement. It has saved my life.

My concern and the concern of other e-cigarettes users is if this ban goes through and we are placed in the same category as tobacco cigarette users, it will deter those who are considering quitting tobacco to a safer alternative. It gives the impression that is not only a safer alternative but that it is as dangerous as tobacco use. It is not and should not be classified the same as tobacco cigarettes. The people that use e-cigarettes cut down on the amount of nicotine they use over time and many are now at zero nicotine and have the goal of stopping the e-cigarettes as well. But with the thousands of Wisconsin residents that are still using tobacco they will not get that opportunity if it is banned in all public areas. Vaping will be viewed as the equal to cigarettes.

When lifesaving alternatives to tobacco use come available to the public it should be encouraged and not discouraged. Many "vapers" (as we call ourselves) have major health problems and have seen their health improve majorly because of these devices.

I don't want to take up too much of your time because I could go on and on about how life changing this has been for thousands of Wisconsin residents and to sentence those of us to the same treatment as cigarette users is not right. We have worked at quitting smoking just like anyone, it has worked for so many of us, our lives are healthier and more productive due to the switch, and it should be made more available to people and encouraged to anyone who smokes cigarettes. There is no offensive odor, the vapor dissipates within 10 seconds, and it doesn't cling to walls, and doesn't pose the same risk to people who are around the second hand vapor. These devices have been tested many times and re-tested as well.

As you will be able to see from the links below there are massive differences when it comes to tobacco cigarettes verses the alternative smoking devices. Please take into consideration that thousands of lives are being saved because of these devices and it should be up to the businesses themselves whether or not they want to allow vaping in their businesses.

Thank so for your time,

Heather Hughes

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