

# ☞ 07hr\_sb0150\_SC-PHSILTCP\_pt02



## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE RECORDS

### 2007-08

(session year)

### Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy

### (SC-PHSILTCP)

(FORM UPDATED: 07/02/2010)

## COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- [Committee Reports ...](#) **CR**
- [Executive Sessions ...](#) **ES**
- [Public Hearings ...](#) **PH**
- [Record of Comm. Proceedings ...](#) **RCP**

## INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL ...

- [Appointments ...](#) **Appt**
  - ☞ **Name:**
- [Clearinghouse Rules ...](#) **CRule**
- [Hearing Records ...](#) bills and resolutions  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)  
(**ar** = Assm. Resolution) (**ajr** = Assm. Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)  
(**sr** = Sen. Resolution) (**sjr** = Sen. Joint Resolution)
- [Miscellaneous ...](#) **Misc**
  - ☞ **Details:**

2007 SB 150

Dated Single-Page Testimonies  
(May 16-29, 2007)



SB150

To the Senate Committee on Public Health

May 16, 2007

My name is Jeanie Carlin and I am a professional entertainer. I am urging you to please speak on my behalf and others to ban cigarette smoking in Public places. I have been exposed to this health hazard far too long in the clubs, bars, restaurants and other spaces where I have had to perform. I have also sang in Ireland, and New York...which are now smoke free. It is a blessing and a healthy thing not to be exposed to the toxins of other's habit.

I have even written a song called "I Love You Even More If You Don't Smoke".

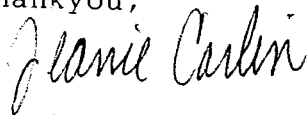
My pianist Ron Wolfe passed away two years ago from cancer of the bladder. His Surgeon told me...that Ron probably got it from being exposed to second hand smoke. He played in jazz clubs for many years.

The Health risks are no longer a guess....smoke that is second hand is not only dangerous to adults...but especially to children and animals, Who live with smokers.

It is time to turn the newer generations into aware beings that have a choice. Please do as I request and help pass the "Breathe Free Wisconsin act."

It's time to catch up with the rest of the world's awareness of the danger of second hand smoke!

thankyou,



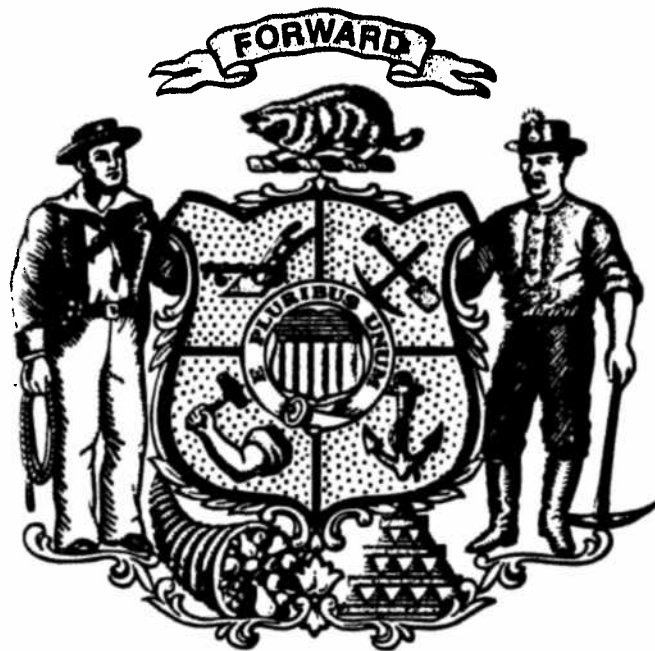
jeanie carlin  
4319 ~~83983883~~

Logtown Road

Lena, Wisconsin 54139

( 920-834-4683 phone )

female age 51



SB 150?

May 17, 2007

Dear folks of the Senate Committe on Public Health, I urge you to help pass the Breathe Free Wisconsin Act.

I am a citizen and anaavid golfer, pool player and tavern supporter. I am sick of the second hand smoke in these places. We who frequent this places have lack of clean fresh air and it's not right because second hand smoke not only stinks....but it kills.

I know of bartenders who have also been over-exposed to the smoke and have gotten cancer. It should be banned from all public places.

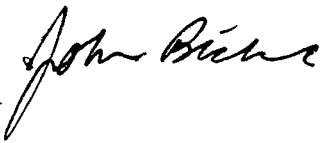
I would like to have you doo all you can to assure that Wisconsin becomes smoke free....let's catch up with the other states who are already doing it.

My partner is a performer and I want her to be able to sing in smoke free environments too.

More folks would come out if they had smoke free places to go to listen to music, play pool and visit with other neighbors.

The time is now...I urge you to help be the voice of we who wish Wisconsin to be ...smoke free.

thankyou,



John Bickel

4319 logtown Rd.

Lena, Wisconsin 54139

920-834-4683

age 48 years old

male :



5-22-2007

The Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term  
Care and Privacy:

I support SB 150 to make Wisconsin a smoke-free state. I  
am asking that you support it also. This bill will make  
Wisconsin a healthier state and save health care dollars.

Thank you,

Thomas Wepfer  
Retired Pharmacist  
214 N Division St  
Loyal, WI 54446



May 22, 2007

The Committee on Public Health  
Senior Issues  
Long-Term Care and Privacy

Dear Respected Committee Members:

I'm writing to encourage you to pass the no smoking legislation SB150 with NO exceptions.

Research has proven beyond a doubt the dangerous effects of smoking and second-hand smoke. We have freedom in this country but that carries with it a responsibility to do what is right. It does not give us freedom to injure others. Knowing what we know about the dangers of smoking adds to the weight of responsibility we carry. We cannot plead ignorance about this issue. There are no valid reasons to not pass this bill!

A non-smoking friend and colleague passed away at the age of 52 from throat cancer, after being married to a chain smoker for 20+ years.

My uncle died from lung cancer at a young age after smoking for many years. It destroys lives and tears families apart.

No smoking legislation is vital at this time to decrease the horrendous costs of health care in addition to the more personal situations listed above.

Please pass SB150 as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,

Phyllis Olson  
1507 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Marshfield, WI 54449

SB 150?



May 22, 2007

To all Members of the Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues & Long-term Care & Privacy:

I am writing to support the smoke free air bill proposed by Governor Doyle. As a physician I have seen the devastating health effects of smoking in my patients and their families. I have become concerned about the cost of smoking for health care. Smoking is the number one cause of preventable heart disease and cancer.

Sixty-four percent of Wisconsinites support smoke free air. I do not believe that the minority should dictate policy to the majority. This is a concern for all. To continue to ignore this issue is to enable more people to take up this habit.

The argument commonly given against this initiative is the economic impact for businesses. Every legitimate study ever done has shown no negative impact, and in a few cases, studies have shown a positive impact. Only studies commissioned or supported by the tobacco industry have shown a negative impact.

What seems to be the case that instead of loss, workplaces that have adopted smoke free air policies have realized economic benefits. The results of all credible peer-reviewed studies show that smoke free policies and regulations do not have a negative impact on business revenues. Establishing smoke free workplaces is the simplest and most cost effective way to improve worker and business health. In fact, the only negative economic effect that smoke free laws have is on the tobacco industry itself.

I personally have helped Marshfield Clinic and St. Joseph's Hospital adopt a smoke free campus policy. I believe it is in the best interest of the people of Wisconsin. **I would encourage you to consider them in your vote.**

Sincerely,

Edward Krall, M.D.  
Medical Director  
Security Health Plan

EK/lj



May 23, 2007

To the Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy:

Please support SB 150. Everyone has the right to be protected from the effects of secondhand smoke and to breathe smoke-free air.

I have worked with many patients throughout my career as a nurse. I have personally witnessed the dramatic decline in health as a result of both first-hand and second-hand smoke. Second-hand smoke is a known carcinogen and has adverse effects on the cardiovascular system. Exposure to second-hand smoke has been proven to play a part in coronary heart disease, lung cancer, and death.

The most effective way to protect people from the hazards of secondhand smoke is to completely eliminate second-hand smoke by creating smoke-free environments. Establishing smoke-free policies does not have an adverse economic impact and is the only way to ensure that second-hand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace.

I encourage the Committee to support SB 150. Help to protect Wisconsin workers and the public from the known health dangers in secondhand smoke.

Alecia Neuroth, RN, BSN  
421 Witter Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

SB 150?

May 23, 2007

To all members of the Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-term Care & Privacy:

I am unable to attend the hearing on May 31, 2007 but wanted to place written support for the proposed Clean Indoor Air legislation without exceptions. I support this legislation for 2 reasons: first, to protect the health of the individuals who work in restaurants, bars, and taverns, and second, to protect the health of individuals who patronize those same places. There is growing evidence that secondhand smoke is harmful, especially to children. Secondhand smoke contains many harmful ingredients. There are rules and regulations that protect not only the worker in the workplace, but those who patronize establishments.

Why should indoor air as it relates to secondhand smoke be any different? As a registered nurse who works on a cardiac floor, I see on a regular basis the harm of using tobacco products on the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Prohibiting smoking in all public places might help individuals who struggle to quit smoking, break that addicting habit. I personally have never experienced nicotine addiction, but empathize with those who have such difficulty breaking a tobacco habit. We counsel individuals trying to stop smoking to stay away from smoke-filled places for 30 days. It would be great if these individuals could socialize in a bar or tavern without the temptation to smoke. I cannot emphasize how horribly addicting nicotine is. It has been said it may be more addicting than cocaine, especially for women.

I am not anti-smoking. It is a legal product and adults have the right to smoke but when their right to smoke conflicts with my right to breathe indoor air, there are conflicting rights. I know there is a desire to create a healthy environment for the citizens of this great state. The right thing to do is to create clean indoor air for all workers and those who eat and drink in restaurants, bars, and taverns. Folks go to restaurants to eat and to bars and taverns to drink, not to smoke.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my comments. I hope you will support clean indoor air legislation for WI. It would create a level playing field and assist in keeping those who live, work, and play in WI healthier.

Donna M. Rozar, R.N., B.S.N.  
1126 Ridge Road  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
715.387.8121

Teresa A. Harmsen  
W13735 Hwy 44  
Brandon, WI 53919  
920-346-2302

May 23, 2007

To: The Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy

I am writing to ask your support of bill SB 150 to establish a statewide smoking ban. I feel this is extremely important to our quality of life here in Wisconsin.

While I applaud communities that have already initialed smoking bans, I strongly feel it is necessary on a state level in order to be consistent and fair to business owners. There is a nice little restaurant in McFarland that we have enjoyed many times in the past. However, since the smoking ban went into effect in Madison, it is over run with smokers and not a fit place to eat a meal anymore. What a health hazard to the people that have to work there!

In addition, my husband and grandson both have asthma and going to a place that doesn't ban smoking is not an option for them. Smokers have a choice of smoking at home or in their vehicles, even with a ban. My husband and grandson have no choices if smokers are present.

Please make ALL of Wisconsin a healthy place for ALL of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Teresa A. Harmsen

May 23, 2007

Dear Committee members on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy,

I have received notice of the public hearing scheduled for May 31, 2007 regarding Breathe Free Wisconsin Act. I will be unable to attend this hearing but wanted to write a letter indicating my support for SB150.

I grew up in a family where my mother, father and sister smoked. I have seen the health effects caused by smoking and secondhand smoke. I have made a choice with my own life that doesn't involve smoking. I do not like being around people who are smoking. I don't take my children places where people are smoking because of the risk of second hand smoke and the smell. I would appreciate Wisconsin being a smoke free environment so that this was not one of the things we needed to consider when we were going places. Please allow give everyone the right to breathe clean indoor air, by passing SB 150.

Sincerely,

*Jodi Gunckel*

Jodi Gunckel  
1253 Snowdon Dr.  
Oshkosh, WI 54904  
920-379-8676

May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

The Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy

My name is Don Krueger and I reside at 374 Windingbrook Drive in Oshkosh Wisconsin. I am here this afternoon to ask for your support for Senate Bill 150. I am a 4- year survivor of male breast cancer. I know first hand what it is like to be told those dreaded words "You have Cancer". I have experienced first had telling my family the news and seeing the fear and concern on their faces. I know what it is like to go through surgery and then chemo treatments. We all know that second hand tobacco smoke can cause cancer. In all, secondhand smoke kills 53,000 Americans each year, according to the National Cancer Institute. We have an opportunity to make some positive changes to the overall health of the citizens of Wisconsin. Please support the passage of this bill into law. We have a great opportunity to reduce the incidence of cancer in the future with the passage of Senate Bill 150.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Krueger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald Krueger  
374 Windingbrook Drive  
Oshkosh WI 54904

920-233-6598





SB 150?

**raymond fiske**

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**From:** "raymond fiske" <rfspeed@charter.net>  
**To:** <Sen.Carpenter@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2007 3:15 PM  
**Subject:** no

WE CAN'T SMOKE ANY PLACE, BUT IT'S OK TO BREAK  
ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS. THE BILL OF RIGHTS,  
THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE. ALSO I GUESS IT'S OK TO  
SELL  
THEM AND MAKE MILLIONS OF TAX DOLLARS. THATS  
NO  
DIFFERENT THEN A DRUG DEALER ON THE STREET.  
AND  
ONE MORE THING. WHEN THE PRESIDENT IS TOLD  
THAT  
CIGARETTES ARE KILLING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HE  
RESPONDS WITH  
  
THE PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT  
TO CHOOSE

RAYMOND FISKE

5/24/2007

May 24, 2007

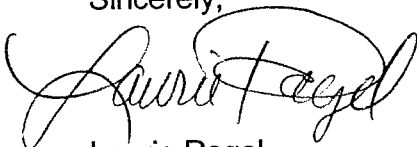
The Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy:

I am writing to you to ask you to support SB 150, the Breathe Free WI Act, making all worksites smoke free with no exemptions.

I grew up as an asthmatic child with parents who both smoked. I have memories of struggling to breathe and feeling nauseous as my parents' addiction to nicotine precluded them from providing their children with a smoke-free environment. Several years down the road, I am an adult child of a father suffering from emphysema and spots on his lungs. I observe first-hand the devastating effects of tobacco smoke on my dad who continues to smoke even while on oxygen, as well as on my mother who quit smoking several years ago but is still exposed to second-hand smoke residing with a smoker.

It is my sincere hope that no more children or other non-smokers will have to suffer exposure to the dangers of deadly tobacco smoke. I urge you to support this life-saving legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Pagel".

Laurie Pagel  
130 Kelly Way  
Hortonville, WI 54944

920-779-9111

**The Committee on Public Health  
Senior Issues, Long Term Care & Privacy**

**5-24-07**

***I am writing in support of the SB 150 and would be relieved greatly as a Wisconsin resident & Cancer Fighter if this bill passes. Too many lives are at risk and too many health factors have been proven to be the cause of second hand smoke. If someone does drugs, they harm themselves; If they drink excessively, they harm themselves; If they smoke they harm themselves but additionally the health of others. To subject others to something that is so harmful should not be allowed publicly. If they choose to harm themselves or endanger their lives, it's their choice but they need to respect the health of others. When someone drives under the influence, they greatly endanger their lives and others on the road but it is against the law and they will pay a dear penalty if caught doing it. I believe smoking and second hand smoke is a deadly habit and to protect & preserve the public's health in public venues, we need to act NOW! I am in full support of the SB 150 and pray it passes.***

***Thank you for hearing my plea as a concerned Wisconsin resident.***

***Respectfully,***

***Susan Gee, President  
Green Bay Cancer Fighters  
1203 Dodge St.  
Kewaunee, WI 54216  
PH: 920-388-4498  
Email: [geewhiz@jtol.com](mailto:geewhiz@jtol.com)***



**raymond fiske**

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**From:** "raymond fiske" <rfspeed@charter.net>  
**To:** <Sen.Carpenter@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 25, 2007 4:28 PM  
**Subject:** SB 150 - VOTE NO

PLEASE VOTE NO!!!

More & more of our rights to CHOOSE are being taken away. If you make it illegal to smoke in the taverns/bars, then why is it legal to even sell cigarets? Not to mention all the tax revenues collected by the government. The decisions should always be left up to the owners of these businesses. I look forward to stopping in at the neighborhood tavern/bar. It's part of our social life. The people in these bars are just like me. Wanting to stop and relax for awhile after work, and getting to know your neighbors. I do not feel comfortable in the large chain taverns. They are not a relaxing place to go.

I'm sure many people do not care about the small, neighborhood taverns, but these owners are the ones who suffer. Many will end up closing - ending their livelihood. It's not fair to exempt private clubs, casino's and cigar bars. What makes them different?

When I received a form letter from Doyle, stating it's for the children's health, why are these children even in these taverns/bar? To me it's just another excuse. Instead of worrying about the smoking issue, I believe there are many more important issues to be worked on. Affordable health care, the loss of Education/jobs because of the budget, the loss of small businesses, etc.

PLEASE VOTE NO!!! Stop taking away our rights to choose. If it doesn't stop now, what other rights will they take away from us next? Leave the decisions up to the owners. They know what will make or break their businesses.

Thank You for you time,

Sue - A life long resident, born & raised in Madison.

5/25/2007

May 25, 2007

The Committee on Public Health  
Senior Issues  
Long Term Care and Privacy

Dear Dignitaries:

SB150 has been introduced in the Senate. This bill is significant, and as your constituent I would appreciate your knowledge in supporting its passage.

As a 2004 Breathe Free Coalition Campaign Coordinator for the city of Wisconsin Rapids, WI, I found that campaign rewarding at best, in that the smoke free and second hand smoke issues were issues that not only myself as a coordinator held fast, but most importantly, was an issue a majority of the citizens believed.

Although the measure ended in a tie vote by our city council with the Mayor at the time, breaking the tie with a nay vote, we realized it was due to the fact that other localities surrounding Wisconsin Rapids, and to including Wisconsin's bordering states, had not yet encouraged/passed a smoke free environment regulation, so fear by tavern owners lead the health movement in a negative outcome.

Now, only three years later, border states surrounding Wisconsin, as well as a host of many other states, have championed this necessary health-wise bill, and I encourage Wisconsin to also embrace their citizens, and offer them a healthier lifestyle, all the while lessening tobacco addiction, and in its streaming gaining cleaner air.

As an Illinois native, and living in Wisconsin the past fourteen years, I was proud to read that Illinois passed a smoke free state, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. When visiting often my family, friends, and acquaintances in Illinois, I have inquired their view on the smoke free bill. I have yet to encounter one person who is not happy with its passage. I know Wisconsin's citizens will find the same comfort as well, and aggressively support our congressional dignitaries in their moral stand toward a smoke free environment for our Wisconsinites.

I am not a proponent of Big Brother government, nor monies reaped by corporate entities, in this instance the insurance and medical conglomerates, enabling the reaping due to health prevention necessities. As well, our dignitaries in the Senate, on behalf of the voting masses supporting this movement, need to keep a careful eye on the spending accountability of the smoke free efforts. However, in this instance I believe the known health affects of smoking outweighs other concerns to be monitored, and I close with my request that you support this upcoming SB150 bill.

Sincerely,  
Denise Orr  
2230 Lovewood Drive  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494



168 North Pioneer Road  
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935

(920) 922-0590  
FAX: (920) 922-1992  
www.fdlchowder.com

*Founded 1938*

Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health,  
Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy  
Senator Carpenter, Chair

May 25, 2007

Senator Carpenter and Committee Members,

We want to go on record in favor of SB 150/workplace smoking ban/no exceptions.

The trend to totally smoke-free workplaces is spreading across the country, and it's time for Wisconsin to become part of that trend. Too much time and effort has already been invested as individual cities and counties debate the details of smoking bans with arbitrary cutoff points, only to have the issue reappear a year or two later.

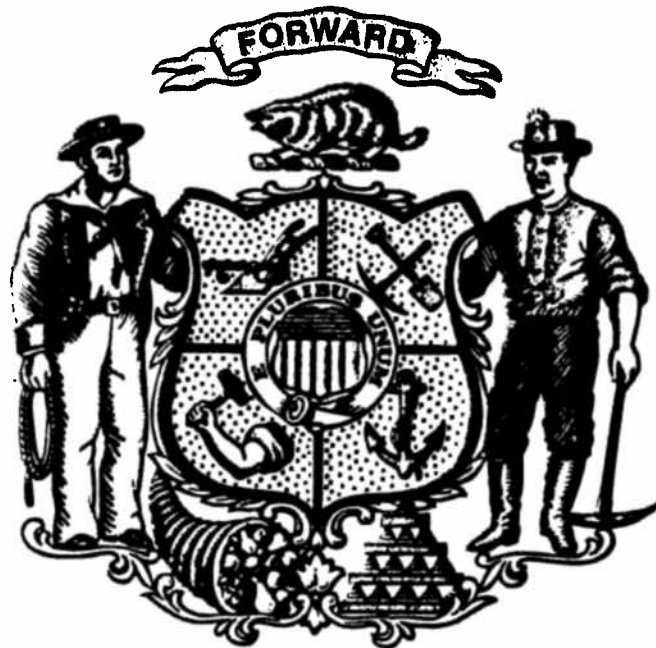
Wisconsin can be among the leaders in the country regarding this issue by passing a workplace smoking ban with no exceptions. If a new law includes exceptions it will weaken the purpose of that law, and will create inequality in the marketplace. And chances are we will then end up revisiting this issue again in the near future.

We are urging you to put the issue to rest once and for all. Don't pit neighbors against neighbors over a smoking ban with an arbitrary cutoff point. Pass SB 150 with no exceptions, so that all Wisconsin businesses can function with a level playing field.

Respectfully,

Paul F. Cunningham, President  
Joan M. Cunningham, Vice-President  
Schreiner's Restaurant Inc.





5/26/2007

Members of Senate Public Health Committee;

I am Courtney Chambers. I am a freshman at Western Wisconsin Technical College. I have been a FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco) member for two years and a member of T.A.T.U. (Teens Against Tobacco Use) for three years. I now am a volunteer FACT adviser in La Crosse.

I like to hang out with friends, and frequent bars. But I can not go with my friends because I have Asthma. Sometimes I can't breathe because I inhaled the smoke and my lungs hurt so bad that I have to cough. Did you know that 15% of the cigarette smoke gets inhaled by the smoker, but the remaining 85% is left to linger so the rest of us can breathe it in? I do not want to die right now, just because I want to hang out with my friends.

Please pass SB150 and protect my health, my friends health, and my future family members health.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Courtney Chambers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Courtney Chambers  
1316 St. James Street  
La Crosse WI 54603

5/26/2007

Members of Senate Public Health committee,

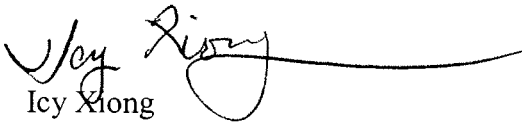
I am Icy Xiong, a member of FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco) and a Junior at Logan High School, La Crosse, Wisconsin. FACT is a youth lead group which empowers other young people to make informed choices about tobacco by learning the facts about how the tobacco industry targets us. I am here today with my FACT group taking action statewide and in our community to reduce youth tobacco use and prevent our friends from becoming targets of the tobacco industry lies.

The tobacco companies have lied to us all, saying under oath, that their product is not addicting. The tobacco industry said these things even though they knew their own scientists conducted experiments proving that cigarettes contained nicotine and nicotine is addictive.

I have two older brothers, not much older than I, who have tried to stop smoking a couple of times, but the nicotine is too strong and they are addicted. My brothers smoke far from the house because of secondhand smoke and they worry about our family. They encourage me to fight for clean air and a smoking ban in all work places. They think it would help them quit if they were not exposed to secondhand smoke.

By passing SB150, it will make a big difference on me, my family and my community.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Icy Xiong". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Icy Xiong  
2117 Grandview Place  
La Crosse, WI 54601

5/26/2007

SB 150?

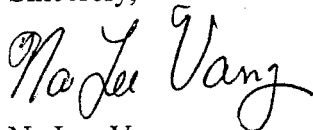
Members of Senate Public Health Committee:

I am Na lee Vang, a Junior at Logan High, La Crosse, WI. I am a member of FACT a youth group that fights against corporate tobacco, not the smokers themselves. I joined FACT so that I could help prevent teens from starting to smoke. During the past year I have been able to expose tobacco lies, and empower other teens to join FACT.

I have just one more year before I leave my home to live on my own and start paying and caring for myself. I am sensitive to the secondhand smoke from cigarettes, and am very limited to where I can work, support myself and attend college. Even now I cannot even enjoy a Saturday night bowling, because of the smoking that is allowed and also in restaurants that have bars attached and no smoking ban.

With a ban in place, everyone will be able to breathe in cleaner air. Although the Tavern League has been saying that profits will be lost, it is just a scare tactic, there is no scientific proof that supports their claim. The tobacco industry influences the Wisconsin Tavern League. Would you really want to trust people that once said under oath, that nicotine was not addicting, when there own scientist had proven that it was? Can you trust people who say that they are not targeting teenagers and yet Philip Morris, one of the largest cigarette producers in the world (Marlboro) said, "We don't smoke it. We just sell it. We reserve that for the young, the black, the poor, and the stupid." With the passing of this ban, we will be able to make it easier for those smokers to quit because they will not be able to smoke just anywhere and those who inhale the secondhand smoke will be able to enjoy bowling and restaurants with bars attached and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Na Lee Vang  
615 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

5/26/2007

Members of Senate Public Health Committee;

I am Mee Xiong, seventeen years old, and a Junior attending Logan High School in La Crosse. I am a member of FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco).

This coming fall I will be taking my ACT tests and preparing for college. Some of those preparations include finding a good job and starting my own savings. But I am worried about the environment around my work sites. This is because I have seen and been to several companies, restaurants, and even hospitals who allow their smoking employees to be smoking inside or at building entrances.

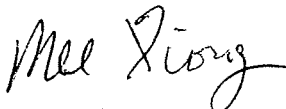
I plan on working in a health care setting after college. I believe the hospital is a second home because the employees are taking care of you and your health. I particularly am confused that not all health care sites are smoke free. Because second smoke has no boundaries, how can I trust that those taking care of me are helping or making my health worse?

I have a nephew who at the age of five was cared for by his Uncle. My nephew has a very strong relationship with both his uncle and father. But both smoke around my nephew. Now he is eight years old and went out for baseball. He noticed he had trouble breathing, gasping harder and harder for air. One afternoon he said this to his mother, "Mom when I grow up I think I will be like dad and uncle...and I want to play baseball." Mom asked him why, he answered, "Listen, I breathe like them." My nephew is now diagnosed with asthma from inhaling the secondhand smoke. My nephew now has a dangerous disease that happened to him when he was young, innocent and did not know anything about secondhand smoke. He just wanted to hang out with his uncle and dad.

Before I joined FACT, I worried a lot about my family, friends and my surroundings. I am proud to be a member of FACT and to do what I can to prevent young children like my nephew from starting to smoke or becoming ill. Passing Senate Bill 150 is a magnificent way to help our community to become healthy and safe.

Thank you for your time and again, you are the ones who can make a difference.

Sincerely,



Mee Xiong  
1227 South Fourth St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

5/26/2007

Members of Senate Public Health Committee;

My name is Brenda Brown. I am a freshman at Logan High School, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

I am taking up family time to write you this written testimony. FACT means Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco. I am proud to be a FACT member who exposes big tobacco's lies, empowers other youth to stand up and fight back and help everyone understand that FACT is not against smokers but the tobacco industry.

Secondhand smoke affects my life. I am a member of a family of 9. We travel on family trips around the state of Wisconsin during spring, Winter and Summer breaks. When we go on vacation we see and smell people who smoke. Not all businesses have the same protections for its customers. When we go to a restaurant/bar that allow smoking inside, like Nutbush, we all feel very sick and have to change our cloths when we get home. My asthma will act up and I start coughing. Did you know that for every eight smokers the tobacco industry kills, it takes one nonsmoker with them? Or that 53,000 non-smokers, 130 non-smokers in La Crosse county, will die from second hand smoke every year. That is more than murder, drugs, and AIDS combined! It is very frustrating because Nutbush has great food, but an unsafe environment to eat it in. Isn't it the government's responsibility to protect us?

My sister smokes before and after school, and whenever she can at home. Nine out of ten nonsmoking American are exposed to secondhand smoke at least once every two to three days. It is really hard to have a sister that smokes around me. My eight year old brother tries to help her stop smoking. We keep trying to help her, but it doesn't work. She sneaks cigarettes up stairs in her room, she smokes when everyone is sleeping, but it affects me because her room and my room are connected. The smoke comes into my room instead of outside. My mom and dad don't like her smoking and it causes a lot of tension in our home and my life.

I want you to pass SB150 because it will make it easier for my older sister to stop smoking. More people will be quitting, less people will be smoking. I will enjoy her company more, my family will enjoy vacations more, and we can all eat good food at our favorite restaurant/bar knowing that our health and safety are protected.

Thank you for your time,



Brenda Brown  
1519 Kane St  
La Crosse, WI 54603

5/26/2007

Members of Senate Public Health Committee

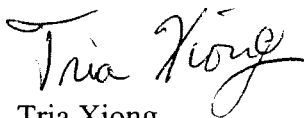
Hi, my name is Tria Xiong, I am a freshman at Logan High School, La Crosse, WI. This is my first year in FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco) in order to educate others about tobacco lies and prevent others from starting to smoke.

There are two smokers in my family. They smoke outside the house and cars. Though they are pretty far from the door somehow the smoke often make its way into the house and we all get exposed to secondhand smoke. One of my brothers tried mostly anything to stop smoking and he did for six months. Once he is exposed to second hand smoke he started to smoke again and still smoking today. Just a year ago, I was getting ready to go study at my friend's house and my brother was taking me. When I got outside, I saw him leaning on his car while smoking and didn't know what to do, so I went closer and was about to enter the car. But my brother stopped me, and told me to get farther away from him, and that he doesn't want me exposed to secondhand smoke. Although he knows that what he is doing is wrong and bad for his health, he couldn't stop because he was addicted to the nicotine in the cigarette. My brothers who smoke support me and my two sisters for participating in FACT and wouldn't want us to start smoking like them.

Secondhand smoke also impacts me at funerals. Imagine taking a deep breath before entering a certain building and holding it until you left. Every time going to the Hmong funeral building always near the entrance, there would be a room full of smokers and smoke everywhere. The smoke creeps out and into the non-smoking areas where many non-smoking people would breathe it in. When I say people, I don't only mean a certain age, but all ranges of age from at least seven years old to eighty years old are there and would breathe the chemicals in. Though I always hold my breathe in the entrance I know that I would also breath in the harmful chemical into my body. SB 150 would help the Hmong funeral home be smokefree, so relatives (all ages) can come to see the deceased and not be exposed to second hand smoke and not worry about their health.

I want you to pass SB 150 so that all public places would be smoke free and children of young ages won't be exposed to secondhand smoke.

Thank you



Tria Xiong  
2117 Grandview Place  
La Crosse, WI 54601





Erv's Mug 130 West Ryan Road Oak Creek, WI 53154

May 28, 2007

To: The members of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care & Privacy-  
Senator Carpenter, Chair

Re: Support for SB 150/ Workplace Smoking Ban.

I am the owner of a casual fine dining restaurant located in Oak Creek, in the southeastern part of Milwaukee County. My father began the restaurant/bar in 1979 and we remain an independent, single unit business. We seat about 60 people in our restaurant and 40 in our bar. On any given day (except fish fry Friday), our total sales are close to equal between bar and food.

I write this letter to express my support the statewide, no exceptions workplace smoking ban. It with only with a statewide, no exceptions ban that we can all be on a level playing field. If taverns were exempted from the ban, what would stop a tavern from expanding their menu or serving breakfast to accommodate those who can no longer smoke in the diner up the street. Although my sales are close to the magic number of 51% alcohol sales, and perhaps I could remain smoking under some of the proposed exceptions, my thought is- why would I want to? I want to be smoke free but for several reasons, making that decision independent of a statewide ban would be problematic for me as an employer and business owner.

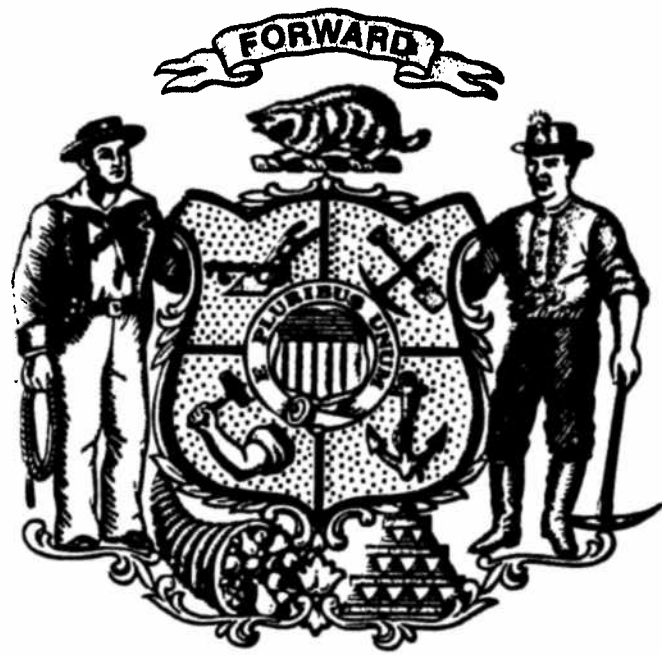
Several of my loyal customers are smokers. If I went smoke free voluntarily, it would say to them, "please go somewhere else to eat & drink." If there is no where else to go that would allow smoking, I believe they will continue to choose my restaurant. One of my best employees is a bartender by profession and a smoker. If she could not smoke at my workplace, she would possibly seek out other employment. If she could not smoke at any workplace, I believe she will continue to work for me. Perhaps, she would even try to quit smoking.

The reality is there many different local smoking ordinances in Wisconsin. Our playing field is not level now and it has caused some hardships. There are only two paths to a level playing field. One is no regulation at all, and the other is a complete ban. Anything in between unfairly creates winners and losers.

Smoking is a personal choice, but when done within the confines of a closed building, it becomes a public health concern. Restaurants and bars follow strict regulations regarding our kitchens and our food because straying from those regulations could make people sick. The same logic applies for smoking. Bar and restaurant workers are exposed to toxic second hand smoke for hours at a time, day after day. Are we really saying that the customers and workers in restaurants deserve protection but those in taverns do not? Don't restaurant and tavern employees deserve the same protections afforded to workers in other professions?

So why would owners of restaurants and bars expose workers to this serious health threat? To be fair, until recently this hazard has been an accepted part of our culture. Happily, that's changing. Entire countries (Ireland and Italy) have begun to ban smoking in workplaces, including bars and restaurants. The list of states with laws requiring 100% smoke-free workplaces continues to grow every day. I support adding Wisconsin to that list.

Danielle Baerwald  
Erv's Mug  
Owner



May 29, 2007

The Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy,

My name is Mary Kelly. I am a Community Health Educator, Registered Respiratory Therapist and an Asthmatic. Thank you for the opportunity to allow my letter to be heard. I am writing to ask you to support SB 150.

As an American Lung Association-Freedom from Smoking facilitator, a Registered Respiratory Therapist, Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Therapist, Asthmatic and an ex-smoker, I know first hand the damage that smoking can cause. I have seen countless individuals spend their last years living an agonizing life, in a depressed state, caused by a constant struggle to breath. This results in a lack of ability to enjoy a minimally active life. By active, I mean being able to walk to the mail box, actively participate in conversation with others, and basically leave their home. This has been caused by the development of Chronic Pulmonary Obstructive Disease (COPD) or lung cancer which is a result of smoking. These individuals spend their last years in and out of the hospital and countless years taking expensive medication.

As a child who was exposed to second hand smoke, growing up in a home with a smoker, I developed asthma as a young adult. Due to multiple medications that must be taken daily, my asthma is thankfully in control at the present time. However, I am not able to participate in activities that take place in environments where cigarette or cigar smoke is present. Even hotels must provide smoke free rooms for me to be able to stay in them. I would NEVER be able to work in an atmosphere where smoking is permitted.

As a result of my knowledge and experience with the devastating results of exposure to tobacco smoke, I beg you to prevent smoking in public and private buildings where individuals are exposed to the harmful and addictive chemicals in cigarette and cigar smoke. Many workers are limited in their choice of work environments. However, ALL workers should be able to breathe clean air in their jobs. This will protect them from the damaging effects of tobacco smoke and prevent medical problems and expenses for all.

In addition to indoor smoke exposure, I request that any bills that protect air quality in general are supported. What we do today affects our future lives and that of our children. Please vote wisely for health!

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion today. I have lived in Wisconsin for the majority of my life and am proud that it is a progressive state that considers the health of its residents. Please vote in support of SB 150.

Respectfully,

Mary P. Kelly, MS, CHES  
1430 Skylark Lane  
Green Bay, WI 54313

SB 150?

May 29, 2007

Dear Senator Cowles and The Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy,

Tobacco represents the greatest public health threat of our time, and causes more death and disability than any other avoidable factor. Workplace smoking bans in other states and countries have typically reduced smoking rates by approximately 10%. Enacting such a ban in Wisconsin would result in improved health, as well as reduced healthcare costs and taxes. As a practicing physician, and Medical Director of Arise Health Plan in Green Bay, and as your constituent, I would strongly encourage the committee to move forward with the workplace smoking ban as recommended by Governor Doyle.

In Medical School, one of our professors posed a question; what human invention has saved more lives than any other single invention? The answer was not penicillin, or sterile surgery or CT scanners. The answer was modern plumbing. I imagine the debate over 100 years ago might have been very similar to the current debate regarding the workplace tobacco restrictions.

The arguments against modern plumbing and building codes would sound very similar to the arguments against a workplace smoking ban. "Urination and defecation are normal human functions. We should be allowed to go wherever we want to." Or perhaps, "Men have been going in the woods since time began, and to restrict where we relieve ourselves is an infringement of basic human rights." Another argument might have been, "The added expense of indoor plumbing will cause me to go out of business."

However, very strong public urination and defecation laws, as well as building codes have been enacted to protect the public health. It was felt that the right to relieve oneself in public was outweighed by the harm done to others. Today, nobody disputes the need and importance of these laws.

It is clear that we need similar laws to regulate the use of tobacco products, because the issues are quite similar, and tobacco represents a tremendous public health threat that causes death and greatly increased expenses for Wisconsin taxpayers. Last year, the United States Surgeon General reported over 50,000 deaths annually from second hand smoke. His report noted that there are no air filtration systems that can adequately clean cigarette smoke from the air, and as a result more than half of all Americans are exposed to significant amounts of second hand smoke.

Studies have shown that the direct healthcare costs for smoking in Wisconsin are over \$2 billion annually. Over half of these costs are paid for by government programs such as Medicare and Medical Assistance. If smoking rates are reduced by 10%, and the cost reductions are comparable to what has been seen elsewhere, simply implementing a workplace smoking ban would save Wisconsin taxpayers over \$100 million per year in state and federal costs.

SB 150?

May 29, 2007

Dear Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy,

Professionally I am the coordinator for the Brown County Tobacco-Free Coalition. Research has shown that secondhand smoke is a Class A carcinogen containing over 4,000 chemicals of which over 200 are known to be poisons. In 2006 the US Surgeon General released his report on *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*. In that report Richard Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S. stated that, **"Exposure to secondhand smoke remains an alarming public health hazard"**. He went on farther to say that there is no safe level of secondhand smoke and that such exposure can have an immediate effect on the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, and can result in heart disease and lung cancer.

Personally, I am the mother of a 5 year old who has recently been diagnosed with asthma. Currently he receives breathing treatments via a breathing machine twice a day, more if he is having difficulty breathing. Upon diagnosis, my son's pediatrician made a point to explain how critical exposure to secondhand smoke was for an asthmatic. I then reminded him of the professional "hat" I wore and his response was, **"then you know how critical exposure to secondhand smoke is for an asthmatic, right"?** Ironically my son just told me over the weekend that he wants to have his birthday party at a bowling alley. As an asthmatic, there is no way he will have a birthday party in Green Bay unless a statewide ordinance passes. We will have to travel to Appleton to make his birthday wish possible. Try explaining that to a child going on 6, who really doesn't understand the extent of his asthma.

I am also the daughter of a 58 year old man who has heart disease. His first procedure was at age 46. Eleven years later, in 2005 he underwent quadruple by-pass surgery 2 days before Christmas. Doctors said that he wouldn't have had a heart attack, as the main left artery was 100% blocked and the main right artery was 99% blocked; he would have just dropped and been gone. In going through rehabilitation, his cardiologist reminded him that **secondhand smoke exposures produce substantial and immediate effects on the cardiovascular system** and therefore should be avoided at all costs.

There is a trend in the Midwest; Illinois and Minnesota have recently passed legislation for comprehensive ordinances. All Wisconsinites deserve the right to breathe clean air too! No exceptions.

Warmly,

Kris Kovacic

3120 W. Ottetail Court  
Green Bay, WI 54311  
920-544-4193

May 29, 2007

Subject: Smoke-free Wisconsin, Senate Bill 150

Dear Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy,

I urge you to support the introduced legislation to make Wisconsin smoke-free. This bill will protect the rights of Wisconsin residents and visitors to breathe clean smoke-free air.

Approximately 38,000 non-smoking Americans die from secondhand smoke each year. Non-smokers, children and all workers in Wisconsin have the right to breathe clean air and work in a smoke-free environment. Comprehensive workplace smoking laws have been effective in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, increasing the number of people who quit, and discouraging kids from starting to smoke.

Smoke free air laws and tobacco control public policy reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, increase the number of people who quit, and discourage kids from starting to smoke. I appreciate your leadership on this important public health concern.

Please make tobacco program funding, increased cigarette excise taxes and reducing youth access to tobacco a priority in future public policy. Again, I urge your support in making Wisconsin a healthier place to live, work and visit.

Sincerely,

*Deb Johnson-Schuh*  
Registered Nurse

307 Penhurst Way  
Nekoosa WI 54457

May 29, 2007

Dear Senator Kreitlow,

I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bill 150, the state-wide smoke-free air bill. I feel this bill is extremely important to preserving the health of all Wisconsin citizens.

Countless medical experts have condemned the use of tobacco products, from the Centers for Disease Control on down, due to the effects of their use on both the health of users and non-users. Scientific research has also proven that using tobacco products is detrimental to the health of everyone.

Many states are proposing similar bills, and many have already passed them. Wisconsin needs to show that we are a progressive state, and that we care about the health of our citizens and visitors to the state. I would also urge you not to support any modifications to the bill, such as allowing taverns to be exempted.

The major reason that I am in support of this bill is for the sake of our children. Thousands of Wisconsin teenagers work in restaurants and other business places where smoking is allowed. The tourist industry is a good example of the need for these children as employees, but in many of the establishments that hire them, smoking is allowed. It is a proven fact that exposure to secondhand smoke greatly increases the chance to develop a number of illnesses, including cancer, heart disease, asthma and ear infections.

Statistics also prove that in states that have gone smoke-free, the number of instances of newly diagnosed smoke-related illnesses has declined.

Please support this bill. Lives of Wisconsin citizens are at stake!

Sincerely,

Susan Youngwith

M132 Penny Lane

Marshfield, WI, 54449

SB 150?

5/29/07

To The Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy,

I am writing in support of as much legislation as possible to regulate tobacco use and encourage people not to start. As a means of introducing myself, I have been a middle school science and health teacher in Marshfield, WI for the past 30 years. A major goal of mine has always been to deter my students from smoking. Raising the tax on cigarettes is essential in my mind to help us curb tobacco addiction in our young people.

Equally important, in my mind, is the protection of our WI citizens from the very real dangers of second-hand smoke by creating state wide legislation to forbid smoking in public places including restaurants and bars. As a non-smoker with asthma, I feel almost persecuted because I am unable to dine in places without being endangered by the smoking habits of others.

I have a story to tell that I am really hoping will be read, and taken seriously by our representatives who will be making crucial decisions regarding the health and welfare of the majority of WI citizens who are not addicted to cigarettes. I had the unique privilege of having both of my parents serve this country during World War II. My father was even the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal. They both valued freedom enough to risk their lives for our country. They went into the war as non-smokers and came out addicts at a time when little was known about the real danger of cigarettes. The military supplied them with free cigarettes, and this started their addiction. Many years later, when warnings came out on the labels, my father was able to quit for the sake of his 5 young children. My mother, however, though she tried, was sadly never able to overcome her addiction. While there was no history of lung difficulties of any kind in either of my parents' relatives, all 5 children developed asthma. I hardly feel this is any type of coincidence. Years of exposure to my parents' smoking was the primary factor involved, so now we all suffer the consequences. In addition, In spite of the fact that there was no exposure to second-hand smoke for any of their grandchildren, all 4 of them also developed asthma. I truly believe research suggesting second generation effects of second-hand smoke exposure.

This, in my mind, is a true long lasting tragedy and legacy of the fact that my parents were enticed to smoke in the military. While my parents risked their lives for the freedom of US citizens, our freedom to live normal asthma free lives was lost... In spite of the fact that there is nothing to be done to undo the damage to our lives, you are in a critical position to grant us freedom now, by passing uniform legislation to regulate smoking in all public places. I implore you to look at this issue as a freedom issue, freedom for non-smokers to be protected by deadly fumes from the minority of people who chose to smoke. As my parents fought for our freedom in WWII, I am fighting for freedom for my family, my children and future grandchildren. Truly, I cannot think of another thing allowed in this country that poses such a direct threat to other citizens. I beg you to help us to correct this wrong. In passing this legislation, from my standpoint, you will be honoring the memory of a great man and woman who gave so much in WWII to keep America truly free.

If you should have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill M. Martin  
M304 Galvin Ave.  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
(715) 387-4442  
ajmartin@fibernetcc.com



May 29, 2007

To The Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy:

My name is Angela Sylvester and as a concerned citizen, parent and cancer survivor I am writing to state my support for SB 150 and to ask you to support it as well. I am proud to be a Wisconsin resident and hope that I can be proud of a legislature that listens to and takes actions reflecting public opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,

Angela Sylvester  
1149 11<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Green Bay, WI 54304  
920-438-8548

5/29/2007

Honorable Committe of Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy

My family has been devastated by the effects of cigarette smoking. I truly believe that from all I have read cigarette smoking causes lung cancer. We ask that you please support SB 150, The Breathe Free WI Act, making all work sites smoke free.

Lynn J Hobbs my soul mate, loving husband and best friend, a caring loving , helpful dad and the best granpa to his grandchildren - Chelsea 11, Carter 5, Ella Jane 3, Natalie Lynn 2, Kaylee 1 and the one he didn't get to meet Melanie 11 weeks. You see, Lynn lost his battle to lung cancer on September 26, 2006.

Lynn had smoked since his was a teen. In November, 2005 he was diagnosed with small cell lung cancer, he was only 50 years old. It was only after that diagnosis Lynn was able to quit smoking - part of what he did to fight the disease. It wasn't easy and it made life hard. Whatever he was doing he always took a break to have a smoke. He avoided places and situations where he smoked because that craving was there.

Granpa Lynn loved the summer months and vacation time with the grandkids - mini golf, waterparks, the swimming pool, squirt gun fights, fun on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. There were so many good times. Now there will be more fun with Granpa. Some of the grandkids are so small that they won't remember or get a chance to have those times with him. As I said, he didn;t get to meet Melanie and he will never get to know the children our daughter Leah wants to have someday.

Please get the message out NO SMOKING because smoking does kill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marlene Hobbs  
W844 E Waushara St.  
Berlin WI 54923

Thomas J. Shefchik  
1822 Payton Ct  
De Pere, WI 54115

May 29, 2007

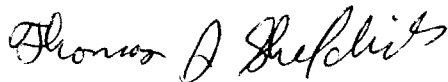
Dear Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy,

I am writing to ask for your support of SB 150, the Breathe Free Wisconsin Act. This is your chance to truly make a difference in the health of our state. As elected officials you have been entrusted with the responsibility of doing what is right for the constituents of the area you represent but also for the residents of the state of Wisconsin. I am sure that you will have plenty of statistics and personal stories provided to you for your consideration. There is two points that no one can discount. There is no safe level of tobacco smoke exposure. The other point is that exposure to tobacco smoke is a major factor in the two leading causes of death of Americans.

Often I hear about how young people are not involved with politics and how we don't vote. There are a few things I want to tell you about myself. I grew up on a dairy farm in northeast Wisconsin. I hold a degree in Community Health Education from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. I am a 29 year-old father of a 9-month-old little girl. Some might say I am the average young professional. So I want you to know that myself as well as many others in the state like me are out here. We do vote and we do care about very important issues like this. We want you to listen to the voice of the majority of the residents in the state of Wisconsin and not the rumblings of a few who might be inconvenienced or have big tobacco interests to maintain.

In closing, I ask you not only to support SB 150, the Breathe Free Wisconsin Act, but to do so by not weakening this vital piece of legislation with any exemptions thus making all worksites in this beautiful state of Wisconsin smoke-free.

Sincerely,  
Thomas J. Shefchik



May 29, 2007

SB150?

Dear Honorable Member of the Senate Public Health Committee

Since I will not be able to attend the Senate hearing on Thursday May 31, 2007 I would like you to share my experience from Friday, May 18, 2007 with my legislatures.

I was working at Stainless, an industry located on 35th Street south of Silver Spring Drive providing Health Risk Appraisals. I do a blood test for cholesterol and glucose and go through risk factors for heart disease. We all know smoking is a risk factor, so with each employee I ask them if they smoke. Interesting, Stainless went smoke free in April and at least 95% of the people I asked are trying to quit and have cut back to a handful of cigarettes a day or have quit already. This reinforces in my mind that smoke free work places do motivate smokers to quit and also rids work sites of second hand smoke for all workers.

Please pass the Smoke Free State Bill.

Joan Hove  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Aurora Health Care  
3000 Rolaine Pkwy  
Hartford, WI 53027

SB 150?

5-29-2007

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, SENIOR ISSUES, LONG TERM CARE AND  
PRIVACY COMMITTEE

I SUPPORT THE 100% STATE WIDE SMOKE FREE  
AIR AND \$1.25 PER PACK CIGARETTE TAX INCREASE  
PROPOSAL.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND OPPOSITION TO  
THESE ISSUES, WITH ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE  
AS TO THE DETRIMENTS OF HEALTH, SECOND HAND  
SMOKE, AND EXPENSE RELATED ISSUES.

HOPEFULLY THE COMMITTEE WILL SUPPORT THESE  
ISSUES.

LAWRENCE GARSIDE  
15659 E CHANNEL DR  
SHAWANO, WI 54166

LAW GARSIDE