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Health Groups Support Bill that Includes E-Cigarettes in Wisconsin's Clean Indoor Air Law

Bill recently introduced with bipartisan support

MADISON, Wis. (October 22, 2019) – Health groups applaud a new bill that adds e-cigarettes to Wisconsin's successful smoke-free air law. The American Heart Association and American Lung Association support SB 442/AB 491 which builds on the popular law that protects people from secondhand tobacco smoke in public places by including secondhand aerosol from e-cigarettes. The bill is co-authored by Rep. Jeffrey Mursau (R – Crivitz), Rep. Debra Kolste (D – Janesville), Sen. André Jacque (R – DePere) and Sen. Fred Risser (D – Madison).

“We thank Rep. Mursau, Rep. Kolste, Sen. Jacque and Sen. Risser for taking the next step in the evolution of effective tobacco and nicotine prevention efforts,” said Nicole Hudzinski, government relations director at the American Heart Association. “E-cigarettes and vaping pose an enormous threat to our next generation and this bill will protect the heart, lungs and health of all Wisconsinites.”

Since Wisconsin's smoke-free air law was signed ten years ago, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services reports the adult smoking rate has fallen to 16% and the youth smoking rate is below 5%. However, the youth e-cigarette rate skyrocketed 154% from 2014 to 2018. When inhaled, e-cigarettes produce an aerosol that is filled with cancer-causing chemicals, heavy metals, formaldehyde and nicotine.

“Everyone has a right to breathe clean air, but products like e-cigarettes contain dangerous chemicals, nicotine and heavy metals,” said Dona Wininsky of the American Lung Association. “We encourage lawmakers to support this bill, which is a simple update that keeps up with the quickly-changing tobacco industry, which is working to addict a new generation of lifelong tobacco and nicotine users.”

When the clean indoor air law was enacted in 2010, Wisconsin's Tobacco Quit Line saw a spike in calls. This free cessation resource is still available to Wisconsin residents. Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) or if you are on Medicaid, talk to your doctor about the free help provided through the Medicaid Tobacco Cessation Benefit.

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About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public's health and share lifesaving resources. The Dallas-based organization has been a leading source of health information for nearly a century. Connect with us on heart.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

About the American Lung Association

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through research, education and advocacy. The Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer, to improve the air we breathe, to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families, and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases. For more information about the American Lung Association, call 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-685-4872) or visit www.lung.org.