

## DISCLAIMER

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Susan Harty. I'm a resident of Las Vegas. I have a health problem called Chronic Bronchitis or COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.) Some doctors have also called it asthma. Chronic Bronchitis is a condition that is almost always caused by cigarette smoking. Non-smokers almost never get it. In fact, I've received a number of unsolicited letters from health care providers addressed to "former smokers" which really angered me because I have NEVER smoked even one cigarette!

I have this health condition due to only one reason: passive smoke. My mother smoked during her pregnancy with me and only quit about 13 years ago. My father smoked until he died; the last 3 days of his life he had a nicotine patch on. My father never believed that passive smoking was the cause of my health problems and he got very angry when I would try to tell him I couldn't be around him when he was smoking.

I've had respiratory problems all my life. I've had pneumonia several times (including hospitalization once) and bronchitis numerous times. Because of the chronic bronchitis which produces daily phlegm, I'm on two daily inhalers; albuterol and Advair (inhaled steroid.) I can't be around any smoke so obviously I don't go to bars, casinos or other smoky areas.

However I have to buy groceries and in every grocery store that I've seen in Las Vegas; there are slot and video poker machines at or near the entrance. Now I can avoid bars and casinos; but I have to buy groceries. When I hear opponents of anti-smoking bills say that grocery store owners should have the right to decide whether or not to have smoking areas in their stores I say what about my right to breathe clean air when I have to go into them! I always take a deep breath before I go in so I can rush past the machines, grab a cart and go into a fresh air section before I can breath! Smoke also drifts into other areas of the store.

Also I have to be very careful as to what restaurants to go to since so many have "smoking" sections where the smoke drifts right over to the non-smoking areas. Also in some restaurants I go into, there are slots and poker machines right at the entrance where people smoke. I have to wait outside until there is a table and then hold my breath and rush inside.

Well that's my story. Part of the reason I moved here was to help my lung problems in the dry, desert air. It's really sad that "indoor" smoke might negate the gains I've made by moving here!

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ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

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SUBMITTED BY: SUSAN HARTY