

Chris O'Brien

From: cindy curran <chakrangel1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 11:44 AM
To: Sen. DiPalma, Louis P.; Rep. Abney, Marvin L.; Senate Finance; House Finance Committee
Cc: Vanessabaker9607@gmail.com
Subject: Make RI Casinos Non-Smoking To Protect And Ultimately Save Employees Health And Lives

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Chairman Abney,

I'm writing to support the C.E.A.S.E. effort, which aims to eliminate smoking in Rhode Island casinos. I've never worked in one, however, I live in an apartment building with smokers and have experienced painful pleurisy (lung inflammation). My doctor suspects I may have COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) due to ongoing breathing issues. I will be tested soon. Pleurisy usually resolves on its own, but if I test positive for COPD, it will be permanent. And I've never smoked in my life.

I bring this up because, if there is smoking in a building, there is no safe place to be safe from cigarette smoke, as the smoke from cigarettes permeates every crack, nook, and cranny it can get through, regardless of how small that space is. Consequently, as long as smoking is permitted within the casino—even in the non-smoking area—both staff and patrons in the casino are seriously at risk for illnesses and/or premature death brought on by the toxic effects of secondhand smoke.

Despite overwhelming and conclusive evidence that nicotine causes serious illnesses and even early deaths, patrons of casinos are still allowed to smoke, placing all employees at a high risk of contracting serious life-threatening illnesses that can lead to premature death, even if a person has never smoked a day in their life. Many organizations that highlight smoke-related health issues associated with smoking WARN that Second-hand smoke is more harmful than first-hand smoke.

If cigarette smoke were labeled as something else, such as hazardous gas, the casino would be evacuated, the source of the gas would be identified, and the building would be aired out until the air was tested and confirmed safe for people to return. In the case of cigarette smoke, we know exactly where the hazardous compounds come from, yet lawmakers choose to disregard the gravity of the situation.

According to the American Cancer Society, **TOBACCO NOT ONLY CAUSES THE DEADLIEST OF ALL CANCERS, BUT IT ALSO IS THE SINGLE LEADING CAUSE OF PREVENTABLE DISEASE AND DEATH.** Thus, cigarette smoking should be banned inside all casinos.

No one, not even smokers, should ever have the right to inflict any illness, whether it turns to death or not, on anyone. If they did so by any other means, then it would be called assault or murder.

Please protect the health of the employees and patrons in casinos and pass the bill to end smoking in RI casinos once and for all. Until you do, the employees of casinos are just sitting ducks for cigarette-related illnesses and possibly a slow painful death.

Thank you,

Cindy Curran

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