

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S7139, S7027, S6939a, S6562 TO INCLUDE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES IN THE EXISTING CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT AND REGULATE LIQUID NICOTINE.

**By: Claire Millman
President, Alliance For Smokefree Air
(516) 433 8278**

I am Claire Millman, President of the Alliance For Smokefree Air. I made the initial appeals for, and subsequent strengthening of, all smoking bans in Suffolk, Nassau, New York City and New York State and have been actively involved in this prominent health issue for 40 years. I am honored to be Nassau County Senior Citizen Of The Year 2014 in recognition of my smokefree efforts.

New York State, commendably in the forefront of protecting public health, is a prime example of the fact that where stringent smoking bans have been enacted the emergence of nonsmoking as the norm in our environment has resulted in a marked decrease in the percentage of smokers and, logically, a marked decrease in smoking and second hand smoking related diseases.

It is, therefore, with great alarm that we now see the rapidly growing use and popularity of e-cigarettes, and we strongly urge that they be prohibited in public places and workplaces and regulated with the passage of these bills into law.

The imminent alert, underscored by major newspaper coverage, such as Newsday's Sept. 6 front page: "MORE TEENS SMOKING E-CIGS, Numbers Doubled In A Year, CDC Says, And Many Move On To Smoking Tobacco", with its Top Story: "TEEN E-CIG ALERT: Twice as many young people trying them, CDC says, Experts worry they could start smoking resurgence", and its subsequent editorial on Sept. 10, urging quick action to extend regulations of tobacco products to include e-cigs, must be heeded immediately.

E-cigs emissions are putting detectable levels of several significant carcinogens and toxins into the air. Elevated levels of acetic acid, acetone, isoprene, formaldehyde and acetaldehyde are chemicals that no one should have to breathe. The British Medical Association and the World Health Organization warn of the dangers; Medical News Today cites a report from Greek researchers that e-cigarettes increased breathing difficulty in both smokers and nonsmokers.

The enticement of the youth to the e-cigarettes, with flavors like cherry, strawberry and cookies and cream milk shake is nothing new to those of us who remember the tobacco documents revealed years ago: "It's a well known fact that teen agers like sweet products. Honey might be considered." (Brown and Williamson memo, 1972.) CDC director, Dr. Thomas Frieden, states the fear that many teens starting with e-cigs may be "condemned to struggling with a lifelong addiction and conventional cigarettes".

The banning of e-cigarettes will, in addition to protecting the public, educate the public re the known hazards and clear up misconceptions. We must protect all our citizens from the deleterious effects of e-cigarettes and get the e-cigarettes under regulation and control.

Please maintain New York State's leadership action on behalf of the health and welfare of our people and quickly pass these bills into law.

Thank you