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March 11, 2012

Senator Owens, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: House Bill 2324: Electronic Cigarettes

House Vote: 112-6

Dear Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee,

In an effort to continue to attempt to protect the health of the children of Kansas I would ask that electronic cigarettes be illegal to possess for anyone under the age of 18. I ask this to be added to the already existing legislation that makes the possession of tobacco products and cigarettes illegal to juveniles. The States of New Hampshire and Arizona have already taken steps to make possessing electronic cigarettes illegal for anyone under the age of 18.

An electronic cigarette is a device that generally appears to look like a cigarette, cigar, or pipe and uses heat to vaporize propylene glycol- or a glycerin-based liquid solution into an aerosol mist, similar to the way a nebulizer or humidifier vaporizes solutions for inhalation. It is said that these electronic cigarettes contain nicotine and could have cancer causing agents. The government is still debating how to label the electronic cigarette. The FDA initially viewed electronic cigarettes as a drug delivery device, but courts later ruled it to be a tobacco related device. Either way, this device should be viewed as harmful, or potentially harmful to juveniles. This device should be viewed the same as any other illegal substances that is harmful to our children, the device should be illegalized.

Sincerely,

Todd Thompson
County Attorney
Leavenworth County, Kansas

References:

http://www.google.com/patents?id=RjIUAAAEBAJ&printsec=abstract&zoom=4&source=gbs_overview_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

Nicotine:

<http://articles.latimes.com/2009/apr/25/world/fg-china-cigarettes25>

FDA

<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/publications/news/news-now/health-of-the-public/20101112fda-cigwarnings.html>

New Hampshire

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2010/HB1541.html>

Arizona

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/49leg/2r/bills/sb1053o.asp>

King County Washington