

Dear members of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee,

My name is Toi Nicole and I started smoking tobacco when I was young and I'm in my quit journey now. Additionally, I worked in advertising and as recently as a few years ago helped promote private cigar lounges and events that allowed indoor smoking. How things change. A few years ago I joined the Wisconsin African American Tobacco Prevention Network and learned so much about how the tobacco industries target groups of people, including minors, with their tobacco products.

As I move forward in my quit journey, I've also learned how secondhand smoke is a huge trigger and how harmful secondhand smoke can be. I'm concerned that the bill being proposed that would allow new Cigar and Tobacco Bars is a step in the wrong direction. I saw firsthand how cigars have grown in popularity among all age groups in recent years, and how other emerging tobacco products have hooked minors and adult smokers.

I believe that allowing smoking indoors at more establishments sends the wrong message to residents of Wisconsin, and downplays the huge health harms that these products cause. It also opens the door for other taverns to allow smoking of all types, which also harms everyone else's health. Our state's free law has broad support, including from former and quitting smokers like myself. Please consider the short and long-term harm this bill will cause if passed and help us allow Wisconsinites to have their best chance to achieve optimal health.

Sincerely,

Toi Nicole
6451 N. 42nd
Milwaukee, WI 53209