

Good morning Members of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee of the Milwaukee Common Council,

My name is Chris Logan and I'm a public housing resident in Milwaukee and a volunteer member of the Wisconsin African American Tobacco Prevention Network, which educates the community on the harms from secondhand smoke and also the health benefits of smoke-free spaces.

Ironically, I'm also a longtime smoker who has struggled to quit. In fact, I'm trying to quit again now and hopefully will be successful this time. What makes it the hardest for me to quit is smelling smoke and being triggered by it.

This is one of the many reasons I was concerned when I saw in the Journal Sentinel that there was a Bill being proposed in Wisconsin to allow for new Cigar and Tobacco Bars to open. I remember the days of the smoky, foggy bars where everyone was smoking. I was there too! Having smoke free taverns allowed me to still meet with friends in a smoke-free atmosphere, which was very helpful to me.

I also think this bill sends the wrong message to kids, who have only known indoor spaces to be smoke-free. This is especially concerning considering that these bars could also become havens for vapers/electronic cigarette users, which are extremely popular among youth and young adults.

In closing, smoke free spaces are healthier for everyone, as there is no safe level of secondhand smoke. As I continue my quit journey I hope others also find the strength to quit. Having more public places where you can smoke indoors makes that harder. Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns and for your service to our state and country.

Sincerely,

Chris Logan
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