

March 2, 2020

TO: Members- House Transportation Committee

RE: HF3072 – Kids in Cars

On behalf of the American Lung Association in Minnesota, I am writing to support the proposed policy protecting youth from secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol in vehicles.

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. With over 7,000 chemicals, 250 known toxins, 11 carcinogens, secondhand smoke is estimated to cause 38,000 – 65,000 deaths annually in the US.

A passenger's exposure sitting in a vehicle where someone is smoking is about equal to sitting in a smoky bar for 3 hours. Secondhand smoke exposure is extremely high due to the restricted area of the vehicle.

Children are at greater risk, because their lungs are still developing. Children that are exposed to secondhand smoke have more cases of pneumonia, bronchitis, respiratory infections, chronic coughs, ear infections and reduced lung function.

The American Lung Association strongly encourages you to support this important policy to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens, our children, from being exposed to dangerous secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol while riding in a vehicle.

Thank you for your leadership on this important health issue.



Pat McKone, Director

Tobacco Control Programs and Policy