



March 2, 2020

Rep. Hornstein and Transportation Committee members:

I write in strong support for HF 3072, the bill to protect children from smoke/tobacco vapor in motor vehicles.

Some years ago, when asked if secondhand smoke was a concern for young children, a tobacco industry spokesperson memorably replied, "No, they could always crawl out of the room." Well, in cars they can't even do that. The US Surgeon General found that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Children are even more vulnerable than adults because their lungs are not fully formed and they breathe in much more air than adults due to their respiratory rate.

The secondhand smoke that they are exposed to in motor vehicles is unsafe, unhealthy and unacceptable.

The bill as written makes smoking in a vehicle a secondary offense so it avoids some of the concerns that have been raised about this potentially being used to target certain populations. We support this provision.

This is a bill which is long overdue. We urge its passage.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Weigum
President