



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 9, 2015

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REP. KOLSTE INTRODUCES INDOOR E-CIGARETTE BAN

Kolste: "Indoor Use of E-Cigarettes Undermines Wisconsin's Smoke Free Law"

(MADISON) – Rep. Debra Kolste (D-Janesville) is circulating legislation that would add Electronic Smoking Devices (ESDs) to Wisconsin's indoor smoking ban.

ESDs, often referred to as e-cigarettes, are battery-operated devices used to inhale a vaporized solution that contains nicotine. E-cigarette users then exhale a visible vapor.

ESDs contain harmful toxins found in traditional cigarettes, including higher levels of nickel and other toxic chemicals like lead and zinc. Research shows that these toxins are released into the air as second-hand e-cigarette smoke. Other toxins not even found in traditional cigarettes, like chromium, are also found in second-hand e-cigarette smoke.

"Allowing the use of ESDs in establishments that fall under the state's smoke-free laws undermines the very purpose of the smoking ban," said Kolste. "The legislature passed the smoking ban to protect public safety, and allowing people to use e-cigarettes in smoke-free venues directly contradicts Wisconsin's efforts to create healthier indoor environments for workers and patrons alike."

The World Health Organization recommends that ESDs not be used indoors in order to minimize the risk of exposure to second-hand e-cigarette smoke.

An analysis by the US Food and Drug Administration found that nearly one-third of adverse-event reports for ESDs are related to secondhand exposure.

"It only makes sense to close this e-cigarette loophole and honor the intent behind Wisconsin's indoor smoking ban," Kolste said. "It's time we extinguish the use of e-cigarettes in indoor establishments."

Rep. Debra Kolste, a Democrat, represents the 44th Assembly District, which mainly consists of the city of Janesville.

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