



State of Connecticut

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Monday, March 4th, 2019

Public Health Committee
Public Hearing Testimony

Dear Senator Daugherty Abrams, Senator Lesser, Representative Steinberg, Representative Young, Senator Somers, Representative Petit, and other members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Tim Ackert and I represent the 8th District, which includes Columbia, Coventry, Tolland, and Vernon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the following bill on today's public hearing agenda:

rHB 7200 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF CIGARETTES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS TO PERSONS UNDER AGE TWENTY-ONE.

Thank you for raising this legislation this year and I hope we can put forward a plan to raise the age to purchase cigarettes and e-cigarettes to 21. The statistics are quite simple, 95 percent of those who start smoking start before they turn 21. Let's say that number is high, what if it was only 90 percent? Many youths start in high school where the peer pressure is much stronger than when they are working or they are in college. I believe we should lead with other states in promoting a healthier society.

Thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with the Committee on this proposal.