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Dear Health and Human Services committee

I would like to thank the Health and Human Services committee for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB2622.

I work at Hollywood Casino at Kansas Speedway as a security officer.

Secondhand smoke is very hazardous to everyone's health. The clean air act of 2010 was put into law to protect Kansas workers for them to have a healthier work environment. Casinos were not included in the clean air act.

20 States have 100% smokefree commercial gaming by state law. Kansas is not one of them, but neighboring Nebraska and Colorado are smokefree.

Several of you mentioned that you don't go into casinos because of the smoke. There are more like you. Casinos would gain a lot of new guests. 85% of adults in Kansas don't smoke. I've had a lot of guests complain on how Smoky it is. Even on the slow days. I've even had guests turn around because of it and not enter.

I've had health issues including pneumonia, strep throat, bronchitis, respiratory virus, covid, sore throat, coughing, itchy and watery eyes due to working in a smoke-filled environment. There have been many times that it's so bad I had to open up the entrance door to try to get some fresh air.

I also have to take a shower after every day I work to get the smoke smell off of me. I am a dedicated father and I don't want my son to be exposed to the smoke I bring home from work. I enjoy my job, the hours are flexible so I can be there to pick up my son from school and enjoy our favorite activities together.

Casino workers deserve to breathe in clean air while we work. Working in a smoke-filled environment can cause coronary heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and other diseases. It can also result in premature death.

I've had co workers who have had to get different jobs because the secondhand smoke effected their asthma too much to keep working.

I had to call for a break from the door one time because I had 2 guys chain smoking cigars within a few feet from me. I would have thrown up if I didn't get a break.

Guests will smoke within a few feet of me and there's nothing I can say or do to protect my health. I've had guests blow smoke in my face just because they didn't like me asking for their identification.

The opponents of this bill will try to claim that there will be a loss of revenue which will cause them to lay off employees. It is a lie.

The 20 states with smokefree casinos are doing just fine. Parx casino in Pennsylvania is 100% smoke free and they are the #1 casino in PA.

85% of adults in Kansas do not smoke. Smoke free casinos would make more money if they catered to them instead of the 15% who do smoke. It makes more sense to cater to the 85% who do not smoke.

Opponents will also say ventilation systems adequately get rid of secondhand smoke.

The truth is that the ventilation systems do not get rid of secondhand smoke. The smoke hits us in the face, and we breath toxins into our lungs, before the smoke can ever get to a ventilation system.

Casino workers and guests will be very grateful to have clean air at casinos. Make a difference for our generation and future generations.

I'd like to thank you for the hearing to this bill. I strongly urge you to pass this bill so it will become law in 2024.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hafley