

My name is Orrin Tiberi; I am a high school senior here in Helena. I have come to speak to you today to urge you to support House Bill 643.

House Bill 643 will:

- 1) Save lives
- 2) improve public health
- 3) strengthen the business climate

Smoke free public places help protect our kids, seniors and hospitality workers from deadly tobacco smoke that causes the premature death up to 65,000 Americans, 175 Montanans, per year who have never smoked but have been exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke.

I know several classmates that have asthma and they struggle to find jobs that will not jeopardize their health.

secondhand smoke is particularly hazardous to elderly people, individuals with cardiovascular disease, and individuals with impaired respiratory function, including asthmatics and those with obstructive airway disease. Children exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased risk of asthma, respiratory infections, sudden infant death syndrome, developmental abnormalities, and cancer.

I do have a choice when it comes to which restaurants I visit, but I don't have a choice when it comes to my workplace. I believe every person has the right to a safe working environment.

a significant amount of secondhand smoke exposure occurs in the workplace. Employees who work in smoke-filled businesses suffer a 25% to 50% higher risk of heart attack and higher rates of death from cardiovascular disease and cancer, as well as increased acute respiratory disease and measurable decrease in lung function.

smoke-filled workplaces result in higher worker absenteeism due to respiratory disease, lower productivity, higher cleaning and maintenance costs, increased health insurance rates, and increased liability claims for diseases related to exposure to secondhand smoke;

Creation of smoke-free workplaces is sound economic policy and provides the maximum level of employee health and safety.

When considering this bill, please think of my classmates, coworkers and comrades. We urge you to please support HB643 The Montana Tobacco Free Schools & Smoke free Public Places Act