

E-CIGARETTES: YOU CAN'T VAPE WHERE YOU CAN'T SMOKE

It started as a chance conversation over lunch with a constituent leading to legislation I introduced that bans vaping in restaurants, bars, healthcare facilities, most hotel rooms, and public buildings--all the same places where we can't smoke tobacco. *(HB 6283)*

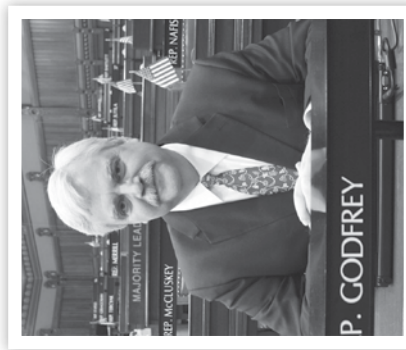
In that conversation I learned that the effects of second-hand vapor were as bad as second-hand smoke. Both can trigger nicotine craving, and vaping smoke can trigger the craving in people who have quit smoking. I learned that teens' use of e-cigarettes has tripled in the last two years making more nicotine addicts. (Connecticut prohibited the possession of e-cigarettes by minors last year.) I learned that the unregulated products include lead, formaldehyde, and diethylene glycol (a chemical used in anti-freeze), none of which should go into our lungs. But, just like legal tobacco products, which can be smoked in tobacco bars, e-cigarettes can also be used in such places.

Special thanks to my intern, Aric-James Prazeres of Danbury for his comprehensive research, and to my constituent, Hillel Goldman, for an interesting conversation over sandwiches.



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**SPECIAL REPORT:
NEW LAWS PROTECTING
YOUR HEALTH**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

BOB GODFREY

Legislative Office Building, Room 4107 | Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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PRESCRIPTION DRUG COUNTERFEITING - is an increasing problem worldwide. We strengthened and expanded the penalties, both civil and criminal, for dispensing and importing counterfeit prescriptions. *(SB 998)*

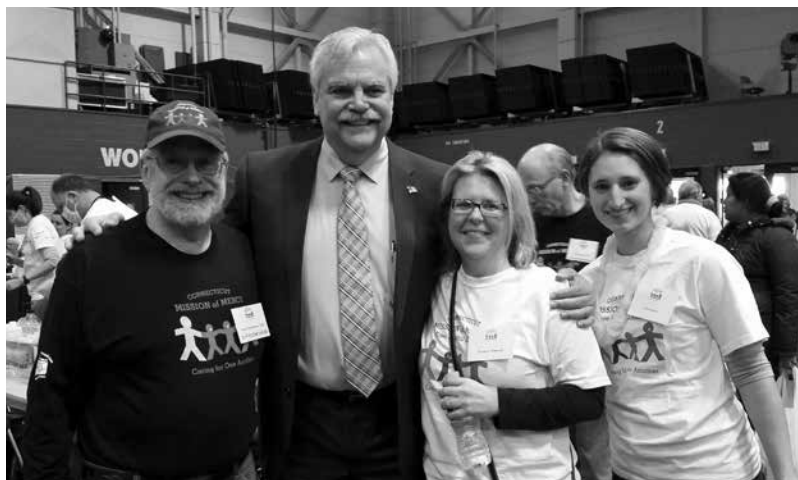
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION - was expanded further to address the 22,000 pharmaceutical drug overdoses annually by requiring prescribers to receive more training on controlled substances. *(HB 6856)*

DEMENTIA TRAINING IN HOSPITALS - directs care staff to be fully trained in patient care and share that diagnosis with any other state agency providing services to the patient. *(HB 6892)*



PATIENT DESIGNATED CARE GIVERS - are increasingly family members who are not properly instructed on how to provide optimal care. Patients being discharged from the hospital may not improve without proper care and are at risk of returning to the hospital. A hospital is now required to notify and instruct the designated care giver in the patient's record. *(SB 290)*

DENTAL CLINIC MISSION OF MERCY, WESTCONN 2015



This two day clinic hosted by the CT Dental Association provided free dental care to the underserved and uninsured.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION - eligibility was lowered for the Birth to Three program that follows the Centers for Disease Control lowering of the threshold of blood lead levels in children. *(HB 6884)*

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS - are important student health services and to be called one, they must be located on school grounds, managed by the school and provide comprehensive medical and behavioral health services. *(SB 917)*

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING FOR CHILDREN - will now be included as part of the required health forms for children 5 years or younger. The screening will include the child's sensory, behavioral, motor, language, social, perception and emotional development. *(HB 6579)*

CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY - will now be tested and have limits set by the Department of Consumer Protection to help protect children from exposure. *(HB 6743)*



IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

Please reach out to me at Bob.Godfrey@cga.ct.gov
or call me at (800) 842-1902