

Dear Chair Kornheiser and Ways and Means Committee members,

As a physician and a mother of two young girls, I am writing to urge you to support the current Tobacco Bill under consideration, S.18. This bill is an important part of the effort to prevent smoking from beginning at an early age in our state. Cigarettes and cigars are now seen by many youth as distasteful and ugly, hence, the development of new products such as flavored tobacco products. Every day I care for the adults with cancer and blood diseases that are often linked to smoking who wish they had never started smoking and have such a difficult time quitting.

We have a new generation of Vermonters who have a focus on health and have an opportunity not to have the regrets of many generations before. I hope we can pass this bill to give them a chance to not start an addiction that is so hard to stop.

Thank you.

Chris Holmes MD, PhD  
Professor of Medicine  
Hematology and Oncology  
University of Vermont  
Mom of an 8 yo and 13 yo