

**JIM THOMPSON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
District 23



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**900 COURT ST NE H-388**  
**SALEM, OR 97301**

February 21, 2013

To: Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Sen. Betsy Close, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Rep. Jim Thompson, House District 23

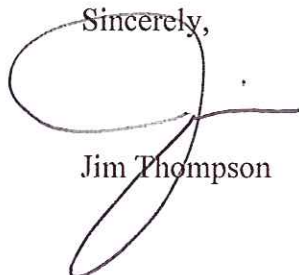
**Re: Relating to smoking in a motor vehicle when a minor is present.**

I am writing today in support of SB 444, which seeks to ban smoking in cars while children are present. Today there is indisputable evidence that second hand smoke is a health hazard. This issue is of considerable importance to me. As a child growing up 50 years ago I lived in a home where my parents smoked and most of our family friends were smokers...and I was asthmatic. People did not know better. When I was in high school we had a designated smoking room for students to keep them from smoking in the halls—that was a very different time but the lights were coming on...slowly. I still had asthma but even I was beginning to associate cigarette smoke with increased symptoms. While I cannot connect my asthma directly with smoking it probably was not a good idea to be inundated with second hand smoke. We know better now.

Today we are more enlightened and public health is a much larger—and more expensive issue.. We do not allow smoking in schools, restaurants, bars, public buildings, hospitals, state property, airliners, busses, trains, some city parks, and most workplaces etc. We almost universally recognize the danger of second hand smoke. Why is it that we can continue to subject young children, who have no means of escape, to concentrated smoke and that is an acceptable exclusion. This is not an issue of personal rights to smoke but rather an affirmation that second hand smoke continues to be a problem worthy of protecting the health of Oregon's children.

I urge to pass SB 444.

Sincerely,



Jim Thompson