



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133

RE: H1976 An Act to Protect Little Lungs
DT: 14 July 2015

Dear Honorable Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Public Health,

Much like there is a ban on texting while driving, this bill would also ban smoking in a car with a child who is in a car seat. The point of this bill is to protect children because second hand smoke is dangerous for young and still developing children and their health should not be compromised by the poor habits of a driver or other passenger in the car. The reason that a car seat is used as the litmus test is because it is easy for law enforcement to identify; in contrast, a child's age would be near impossible to accurately identify by observation alone. Seven states have banned smoking in cars with minors in them, as well as Puerto Rico, and has been banned in certain counties and cities of Hawaii, Indiana, New Jersey, New York and Alabama. The driver would be subject to a fine of \$100.

This bill passed out of the Joint Committee on Public Health last session, but then got held up in the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, which I am expecting it to pass this session due to the bill's past support from Chairman Sanchez.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I respectfully request that H1976, An Act to Protect Little Lungs be released favorably and expeditiously from your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Heroux".

Representative Paul Heroux