

Costco Ban Protects Clean Air and Protects Youth from Unhealthy Influences!

I would like to commend Costco for extending their no smoking policy to include E-cigarettes. While shopping at Costco recently, I noticed a customer using an e-cigarette in the store. He exhaled as he was passed me in the aisle. I was shocked to find that I could smell and taste the vapor that I inhaled. All I could think was that there must be dissolved nicotine and possibly other chemicals in the vapor I just inhaled. Curious, I went up to the customer service desk and asked a Costco employee what their policy was on the use of e-cigarettes and vaporizers inside the store. I was told they were unsure and that another customer complained a few minutes before I did. A Costco manager was called and informed the customer that he was disturbing others and would be asked to leave if he continued to use the device in the store.

Following this event, Costco broadened their no-smoking policy to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes and vaporizers inside their stores. Costco Wholesale Corporation is the second largest retailer in the United States, and the seventh largest retailer in the world. I applaud Costco's decision to protect public health.

E- Cigarettes and vaporizers are battery operated devices that heat nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerin, and other dissolved substances into a vapor which is inhaled by the user. Vapor is included as part of the definition of smoke in all five dictionary definitions I reviewed. The World Health Organization states "scientific testing indicates that the products vary widely in the amount of nicotine and other chemicals they deliver and there is no way for consumers to find out what is actually delivered by the product they have purchased." The Food and Drug Administration has the legal authority to regulate e-cigarettes as a tobacco product, but has not yet done so. E-cigarettes have grown to become a \$2-billion industry and has no federal oversight. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of youth using e-cigarettes is rising rapidly. As young people see more adults using e-cigarettes in public, some will copy this unhealthy behavior and begin a lifetime addiction. We need adults to step

up and set a healthy example for our teens by keeping their smoking habits out of the view of children.
They are watching.

It is my understanding, the vision of the Bremerton and North Kitsap Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions is to prevent youth substance abuse and encourage a healthy, substance-free environment. They are in need of adults and youth leaders who will join in setting a healthy example for our teens.

Sincerely,

Laura Hyde