

Support for H5464

April 10, 2025

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for H5464, to remove the loophole that allows casinos to be exempt from the ban on indoor smoking. I am glad to say that my representative, Deputy Speaker Hull, is a cosponsor.

Two quick stories:

I worked in a bar in the 1970s and I can remember a time when I returned from work after closing and my roommate woke up suddenly saying “I smell smoke!” There was no fire. It was the smell on my clothes and in my hair.

The hospitality industry resisted smoking bans for a long time, arguing that the fiction of a “smoking area” would suffice. I recall a public health advocate using the analogy that restricting smoking to one area is like saying you can only pee in one section of the pool.

Fortunately, good public health sense prevailed, and legislators acted. Now, you and almost all workers in our state have smoke-free workplaces. With one exception.

I urge this Committee to once again approve this bill and bring it forward to the House.

Sincerely,

Kate McGovern

Providence, RI