



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 1, 2019

Contact: Representative Debra Kolste

608-266-7503

**Kolste Introduces Legislation to Expand Wisconsin's Clean Indoor Air Law**

MADISON – Yesterday, Representatives Debra Kolste (Janesville) and Jeffrey Mursau (Crivitz), joined Senators Fred Risser (Madison) and Andre Jacque (De Pere) to release legislation which adds the use of vapor products, such as e-cigarettes, to the definition of “smoking” in Wisconsin’s existing smoke-free air provisions.

“The popularity of vapor products poses an increasing public health threat, especially to youth populations” said Rep. Kolste. “There are few studies on these products, and until more data is gathered I believe that a cautionary approach should be taken,” Kolste added.

The bill expands upon the 2009 statewide smoke-free air law prohibiting smoking in indoor public places. E-cigarette use has increased 900% between 2011 and 2015 among middle and high school students. Last week, it was reported that at least a dozen teens and young adults were hospitalized with lung damage from inhalation injuries related to vaping in Southeastern Wisconsin.

“No one should be subjected to unwanted pollutants, and preventing the use of e-cigarettes in public spaces will help curb the epidemic use of vapor products,” said Rep. Kolste.

Thirteen other states and the District of Columbia have added e-cigarettes to their existing smoke-free laws. The American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society’s Cancer Action Network, the Wisconsin chapter of the American Lung Association, and Tobacco Free Kids are all supporters of this bill.

###