



Campaign for Smokefree Air: Promoting a smokefree environment in all public places

The recently formed Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) is working on legislation to ensure a smokefree indoor air environment in all public places in Michigan, including restaurants, bars and worksites.

Smokefree laws benefit businesses of all sizes, and their employees.

A number of economic studies show that comprehensive smokefree workplace laws have a positive impact on businesses by benefiting the health of workers, decreasing absenteeism, reducing janitorial and maintenance costs, lowering insurance rates and resulting in fewer smoking-related fires.

Smokefree laws also keep people alive.

Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States. It causes 35,000 – 40,000 deaths from heart disease every year, including 3,000 lung cancer deaths among otherwise healthy nonsmokers. Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including more than 60 cancer-causing carcinogens. Comprehensive smokefree workplace policies reduce tobacco related illnesses and the costs of treating them.

Smokefree laws protect our most vulnerable residents.

Smokefree policies enable children, the elderly, and people with certain health conditions to go about their lives without worrying that their health will be put at risk. Nonsmoking sections and ventilation systems don't eliminate exposure to cancer-causing chemicals, as even the best ventilators are incapable of removing the free-floating poisons of secondhand smoke.

OUR CAMPAIGN NEEDS MICHIGAN'S SUPPORT.

CSA is currently developing advocacy, educational and media materials, setting up meetings with legislators in their districts and coordinating campaign strategy. CSA invites you to join our campaign. If your **organization** would like to formally support this effort and mobilize local activists to educate policymakers, the public and the media about this initiative, **please sign and return the enclosed resolution.**

Organization or Business Resolution of Support: Campaign for Smokefree Air

Whereas, secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 substances, more than 69 of which are known or suspected to cause cancer, the Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A Carcinogen and therefore concludes that secondhand smoke is a health risk to nonsmokers; and

Whereas, secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the country killing 1,340 to 2,390 Michigan adults, children, and babies annually; and has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, stroke, emphysema and asthma; and

Whereas, studies including the 2006 US Surgeon General Report show that infants and children are especially vulnerable to secondhand smoke, suffering more acute respiratory infections, ear infections and frequent and severe asthma attacks; and

Whereas, the 2006 US Surgeon General Report states that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, requiring that smoking be eliminated from enclosed areas; and

Whereas, smokefree air policies have been shown to discourage kids from starting to smoke, to prompt more smokers to quit and to reduce the number of cigarettes that smokers consume; and

Whereas, Michigan's Surgeon General has called on communities to work to reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, and

Whereas, local opinion surveys consistently demonstrate overwhelming popular demand for smokefree environments; and

Whereas, it is the responsibility of government to protect the public health of their citizens; be it therefore

Resolved, that the undersigned organization supports legislation to eliminate secondhand smoke in all Michigan restaurants, bars, and worksites.

Organization's Name:

Great Lakes Chapter of the Society for Public Health Education

Contact Person's Name Lynda Meade, Advocacy Chair

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Please complete and submit the resolution to Judy Stewart, American Cancer Society, by email (judy.stewart@cancer.org), fax (517.664.1497), or mail (1755 Abbey Road, East Lansing, MI 48823)