



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2008

CONTACT: Emily Gerkin Palsrok
517-316-0210 (office)
517-862-5462 (cell)
epalsrok@baileypr.com

Serving the State: HB 4163 and its impact on Michigan's health and economy

Public Sector Consultants releases analysis of smokefree air

Lansing, Mich. – Public Sector Consultants, a Lansing-based policy research firm, today unveiled an analysis of House Bill 4163 showing no net economic impacts if Michigan adopted a statewide smokefree worksite policy that includes restaurants and bars.

Ken Sikkema, senior policy fellow at PSC and former senate majority leader, unveiled the report to Capitol reporters during a media roundtable. “Smokefree workplaces: The Impact of House Bill 4163 on the Restaurant and Bar Industry in Michigan,” is a review of the common issues surrounding smokefree workplaces including the health impacts, level of public support, government regulation and economic impact. In conducting their research PSC reviewed dozens of published studies, legislation in other states, public polls and Michigan’s legislative history on the issue.

Highlights of the report include:

- Compelling scientific and health evidence supporting elimination of secondhand smoke exposure for all workers;
- No net economic impact on Michigan restaurants and bars;
- Increasing public support for smokefree air policies statewide and nationwide;
- Government interest and action in protecting state residents from secondhand smoke exposure dates back more than 20 years and does not constitute unwarranted regulation of businesses.

“This is definitely one of the most studied and researched public policy issues of the past decade,” Sikkema said. “Research has consistently shown that smokefree policies have no net economic impact on restaurants and bars. When you consider this, coupled with the positive health benefits, there is no question that smokefree workplaces are good public policy.”

The Campaign for Smokefree Air commissioned the report from PSC in January.

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“This report confirms what we’ve been saying from day one – smokefree air is good for our health but is not bad for business,” said Judy Stewart, spokesperson for CSA. “Ken Sikkema and PSC did an excellent job of condensing a huge amount of scientific data into an easily presentable report that clearly demonstrates there is no losing side to smokefree air policies. It begs the question of what lawmakers are afraid of. What is their hesitation?”

House Bill 4163 was approved by the state House in December 2007. In the Senate, it was referred to the Government Operations and Reform Committee, chaired by Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop.

About CSA

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with more than 260 members, including leadership from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of Michigan, Michigan Health & Hospital Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Pfizer and Michigan State Medical Society, as well as other statewide groups that support making workplaces, including restaurants and bars, smokefree. For more information about the Campaign for Smokefree Air, please visit www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org.

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