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Advocates make final push for comprehensive smokefree legislation before House Committee

Smokefree air hearings conclude today

Lansing, Mich. – Advocates for smokefree workplaces made their final case today before the House Regulatory Reform Committee when they testified on smokefree legislation and urged its immediate passage. Advocates encouraged the committee to move a comprehensive smokefree air bill to the House floor for a vote.

The Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) is continuing to work with lawmakers in the House and Senate to make Michigan the 36th state to embrace smokefree air and protect all workers from exposure to the dangerous toxins in secondhand smoke.

“It’s time for lawmakers to stop shuffling their feet on this important issue,” said Katherine Knoll, CSA spokesperson and senior director of advocacy at the American Heart Association. “We hope that Rep. Bert Johnson and the Regulatory Reform Committee see the groundswell of support from Michigan workers and move a comprehensive smokefree bill to the House floor for a vote.”

The committee listened as a researcher and business owner gave their testimonies on why Michigan should go smokefree.

Today’s testimonies included Ken Sikkema, senior policy fellow for Public Sector Consultants who testified about the study done in 2008 showing no net economic impacts if Michigan adopted a statewide smokefree worksite policy. Charles Roy, Michigan Restaurant Association member and owner of The Cass Café in Detroit, testified about wanting to protect his patrons and employees from secondhand smoke exposure, encouraging lawmakers to pass comprehensive smokefree legislation.

A vote is anticipated in the Regulatory Reform Committee after the lawmaker Spring Break.

About CSA

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with more than 270 members, including leadership from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of Michigan, Michigan Health & Hospital Association, and Michigan State Medical Society, as well as other statewide groups that are committed to passing a smokefree workplace law. For more information about the Campaign for Smokefree Air, please visit www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org.

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