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House Approves Statewide Smokefree Worksite Legislation

Health of Michigan residents now lies in Senate's hands

Lansing, Mich. – Michigan lawmakers rightfully responded to support from thousands of their constituents today by approving House Bill 4163, which would make all workplaces smokefree, including restaurants and bars with the exception of Detroit casinos. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

“We are happy with the House's action today,” said Judy Stewart, a spokesperson for the Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA). “We hope the Senate will give this important issue speedy attention. We consider this an important first step in our fight, but we will continue to advocate for all workers to be protected from secondhand smoke.”

CSA has been working with lawmakers in the House and Senate to make Michigan the 32nd state to embrace smokefree air and protect all workers from exposure to the dangerous toxins in secondhand smoke. Thirty-one other states have comprehensive smokefree workplace policies and more than half of Americans now live in a city or state with smokefree workplace protection laws.

In her January State of the State Address, Gov. Granholm called on legislators to move statewide smokefree legislation and vowed to sign the bill if it crossed her desk.

In July, the House Commerce Committee passed House Bill 4163 after listening to the testimonies of lawmakers, doctors, and victims of secondhand smoke on why Michigan should go smokefree. A statewide poll showed that nearly two-thirds of Michigan's registered voters favor a new law creating smokefree environments in all Michigan workplaces. The poll also found that nearly 80 percent of Michigan registered voters said they would be more likely or just as likely to patronize their favorite restaurants if it went smokefree.

One year after passing smokefree legislation in Ohio, nearly 80 percent of recently polled voters say they support the legislation. Ninety-two percent of those polled reported visiting restaurants and bars more frequently or just as often as before legislation was passed.

About CSA

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with nearly 250 members, including leadership from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of Michigan, Michigan 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.