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## **Not good enough - House fails to protect all workers from secondhand smoke**

*CSA disappointed with House not supporting comprehensive legislation*

LANSING, Mich. – While the Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) was encouraged by movement on the smokefree air issue, it was disappointed that the House failed to protect all workers from secondhand smoke exposure.

Yesterday, the House passed House Bill 4377 sponsored by Rep. Lee Gonzales (D-Flint Township), creating smokefree workplaces but exempting existing cigar bars, and casinos. Amendments to vote on a clean bill without exemptions were offered by Rep. Joan Bauer (D-Lansing) and Rep. Paul Scott (R-Grand Blanc) but were denied.

“This is a weak attempt to provide smokefree protection to Michigan workers,” said Judy Stewart, CSA spokesperson and director of government relations at the American Cancer Society. “Though we’re happy that the House has moved legislation, we still feel that all workers deserve to breathe smokefree air. We’re disappointed that amendments to make the legislation stronger were not considered.”

The bill will now move to the Senate, CSA is hopeful that the Senate will pass a comprehensive bill.

“We have faith that in the end Michigan lawmakers will do the right thing and protect the health of all Michigan workers,” said Stewart. “No one should have to choose between their health and a paycheck.”

A poll released in March, conducted by Lansing-based EPIC/MRA, stated that two-thirds of voters were in favor of including casinos in the legislation. Sixty-four (64) percent said that casinos should be included in the law, agreeing that it is only fair that casino employees should have the same protection from secondhand smoke on the job as other workers.

There are currently 37 states, plus the District of Columbia, who have smokefree air laws.

### **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](http://www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org).

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