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Yet another state beats Michigan to smokefree status – Iowa joins more than 30 states to protect workers and residents

Lansing, Mich. – The Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) applauds the Iowa Legislature and Governor Chet Culver for their leadership in ensuring smokefree workplaces with the Smokefree Air Act, signed on April 15.

“Michigan senators need to stop ignoring the growing support for smokefree air and pass comprehensive legislation here in Michigan,” said Katherine Knoll, spokesperson for CSA. “We would like our lawmakers to protect the health of their constituents by passing a strong version of HB 4163 without any exemptions. Every Michigan worker should be protected from secondhand smoke.”

The legislation, set to take effect July 1, will create smokefree worksites, including bars and restaurants but does not include casino gaming floors.

"My goal is to make Iowa the healthiest state in the nation, which is why I am proud to sign the Smokefree Air Act," Culver said in a statement. "This is a bill which reflects commitment and compromise; passion and practicality. Today, we are locking arms, putting partisan politics aside, and joining together with one common purpose: to build a healthier Iowa."

Last week, CSA released an analysis titled: “Smokefree workplaces: The Impact of House Bill 4163 on the Restaurant and Bar Industry in Michigan,” which provides further support that comprehensive smokefree legislation will not have a negative economic impact on Michigan workplaces. The study is a review of the common issues surrounding smokefree workplaces including the health impacts, level of public support, government regulation and economic impact.

“This study supports everything CSA consistently has been promoting – that there would be no negative impact on Michigan’s restaurants and bars,” said Knoll. “It’s time for Michigan to join Iowa and others and go smokefree.”

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House Bill 4163, a smokefree workplace bill, was approved by the state House in December 2007. It now awaits action in the Senate Government Operations and Reform Committee, which is 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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