



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **New Mexico becomes 25<sup>th</sup> state to protect workers and prove it cares about health of residents**

*Campaign for Smokefree Air urges Michigan legislators to  
stand up and do the right thing*

**Lansing, Mich** –The Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) today applauded the New Mexico Legislature and governor for their leadership in ensuring smokefree worksites there, including bars and restaurants.

This week, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson signed comprehensive statewide smokefree legislation that will take effect June 15, making New Mexico the 25<sup>th</sup> state that protects workers and cares about the health of its residents.

“Michigan lawmakers must take notice of the growing demand for smokefree air and pass statewide legislation,” said Judy Stewart, spokesperson for CSA. “They have the responsibility to protect the health of all Michigan residents.”

A statewide poll found that 90 percent of registered Michigan voters believe secondhand smoke is harmful to their health and 80 percent feel it is important to work in a smokefree environment.

Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor), Sen. Tom George (R-Texas Township) and Rep. Brenda Clack (D-Flint) are sponsoring bills to make workplaces smokefree, including restaurants, bars, factories, hospitals and more. Senate Bills 109 and 110 and House Bill 4163 are awaiting Senate and House committee action. In October, Gov. Jennifer Granholm stated during the third gubernatorial debate that she would sign smokefree legislation if it was put on her desk and called out to legislators to pass smokefree legislation in her 2007 State of the State address.

Michigan loses \$3.4 billion a year from smoking-caused productivity losses. The state’s Medicaid program spends \$1.04 billion annually to cover health costs associated with smoking.

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- 2-

“Going smokefree will protect the health of residents, plus bars and restaurants in smokefree states have seen increased business,” Stewart said. “Given the state’s budget crisis, anything that can be done to eliminate unnecessary state costs and boost the economy should be done immediately.”

After going smokefree in 2003, New York bars and restaurants experienced a 12-percent increase in tax receipts and Florida restaurant sales were up 7 percent one year after their law took effect. Similar studies in California and smokefree countries like Ireland, France, Italy and New Zealand have shown the same trend.

#### **About CSA**

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with more than 60 members, including leadership from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of Michigan, Michigan Hospital Association and Michigan State Medical Society, as well as other statewide groups who support eliminating secondhand smoke dangers in workplaces, including restaurants and bars. For more information about the Campaign for Smokefree Air, please visit [www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org](http://www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org).

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