



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Campaign for Smokefree Air applauds WHO recommendation for smokefree environments**

*Only smokefree environments can completely protect people from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke*

**Lansing, Mich.** – The Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) is applauding the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation that all indoor areas around the world become 100-percent smokefree. WHO recently released a statement stating it believes the only way people can be fully protected from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke is to eliminate the problem altogether.

“CSA has been working to encourage Michigan lawmakers to pass legislation that would require all Michigan workplaces, including restaurants and bars, to become smokefree,” said Judy Stewart, campaign manager for CSA. “We fully support WHO's recommendation and we think the best place to start protecting people from secondhand smoke is here at home in Michigan.”

Similar to a report released last year by the U.S. surgeon general, WHO reported that ventilation systems used in workplaces to clean air of harmful toxins given off by cigarette smoke are not effective.

Smokefree environments also create an economic benefit as owners of smokefree workplaces are rewarded with lower insurance premiums, lower cleaning and maintenance expenses and fewer direct and indirect medical costs for employees.

“Governments across the United States and around the world have made the responsible decision to create smokefree workplaces. These decisions have resulted in better health for workers and customers and, in areas where smokefree environments are mandatory, increased restaurant and bar receipts,” Stewart said. “Hopefully, Michigan lawmakers will realize the vast benefits of smokefree laws and pass HB 4163 or SB 109 this summer.”

In the U.S., 28 states enforce smokefree laws to protect their residents. Smokefree

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laws have proven to be successful in workplaces across the country. In New York, bar and restaurant receipts increased nearly nine percent after the smokefree legislation was enacted. A study conducted in Helena, Mont. showed that six months after their smokefree law was in effect, heart attacks decreased by an overwhelming 40 percent.

Many countries around the world have passed nationwide smokefree legislation, including Italy, France, New Zealand, Ireland and India.

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#### **About CSA**

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with more than 140 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).