



## Campaign for Smokefree Air Newsletter

### Reduced Number of Heart Attacks Since U.K. Went Smokefree

Since the United Kingdom's smokefree law went into effect on July 1, 2007, hospitals have seen a 40 percent decrease in the number of heart attack patients.



Additionally, studies in Scotland and Ireland have revealed a 17 and 14 percent decrease in the number of heart attack admissions. The smokefree laws in those countries went into effect in 2006. The decrease has been attributed to a significant number of people who have stopped smoking, leading to a decrease in secondhand smoke exposure for non-smokers.

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The British Heart Foundation identified the smokefree legislation as “the most significant public health initiative this century.”

Coronary heart diseases costs the country about 3.5 billion pounds, or about \$7 billion. In today's difficult economic times, smokefree air laws in the United States have the capacity to save the country billions of dollars.

These statistics cannot be ignored. Millions of Michigan residents are subjected to the negative effects caused by secondhand smoke. It is time for Michigan to protect its citizens by passing the comprehensive smokefree legislation that is awaiting action in the House of Representatives. Contact Speaker of the House Andy Dillon's office at (517) 373-0857 to voice your opinion and urge the Speaker to allow a vote on House Bill 4163.



## Illinois Smokefree Law Off to Successful Start

According to a recent survey, 73 percent of Illinois voters support the smokefree air law that went into effect in January 2008. That is up from 68 percent who supported smokefree air legislation before the law went into effect one year ago. The survey polled more than 600 Illinois voters from various political, geographic and educational backgrounds, and an overwhelming majority was found in each sector.

The Michigan House of Representatives had held House Bill 4163 hostage since May when the Senate overwhelmingly passed it. HB 4163 would create smokefree workplaces including bars, restaurants and casinos. While Speaker of the House Andy Dillon has not publicly stated why he has not allowed a concurrence vote, it appears that he is listening to those who erroneously claim that a comprehensive bill will lead to economic and social repercussions.



The survey also found that 38 percent of respondents are less likely to go to a smoke-filled casino. Detroit casinos allege that smokefree air laws would have a detrimental impact on revenues. According to this survey, however, Illinois residents are actually more likely to visit a casino because of the smokefree atmosphere. This should serve as a wake-up call to our Detroit casinos.

The study also revealed that 96 percent of respondents believe secondhand smoke is a health hazard. Employees who work in environments that do not have a healthy smokefree atmosphere are not safe. BREATHE (Bar and Restaurant Employees Advocating Together for a Health Environment) continues to support advocate activities for a comprehensive smokefree workplace law in Michigan.



## Smokefree Air is Successful in Colorado

The Colorado Clean Air Act, which went into effect on July 1, 2006, has brought positive results to the state. According to the State Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership, air quality in Colorado bars and taverns has improved by 90 percent since the laws inception.

Moreover, to business owner's relief, the law has proved *not to* result in decreased sales. The results of this study mirror those of one conducted in Fort Collins, Colorado. Fort Collins, which enacted a smokefree ordinance in 2003, witnessed an increase in sales tax revenue in bars and restaurants by *more than five percent* since the ordinance went into effect.



As of January 1, 2008, Colorado casinos also became smokefree. Colorado joins 27 states plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico who have extend smokefree air to their casinos. They also join more than 30 states to enact statewide smokefree air legislation. It is time for Michigan to follow suit. It's time to clear the air.



## Smokefree Air is Catching On

Smokefree worksites continue to be a new, healthy trend across the country and throughout the world. One U.S. state, two European countries and two Swiss cities have recently joined the effort to protect workers and patrons from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Each of these places is taking steps to make public areas safer and healthier for everyone.

### Iowa



On Tuesday, July 1, Iowa became the 33<sup>rd</sup> smokefree state. Iowa's law includes restaurants, bars and outdoor sporting venues.

Under the new law, a person caught smoking in a prohibited area is subject to a \$50 fine. Businesses that don't enforce the law face a \$100 fine for the first offense and the fine increases with repeat offenses.

For more information about the Iowa Smokefree Air Act, log onto [www.lowasmokefreeair.gov](http://www.lowasmokefreeair.gov).

### Netherlands

The Netherlands recently passed a smokefree air law for its entire country that includes cafes, bars and restaurants.





### **Germany**

Smokefree air is now official across all 16 states in Germany as of July 1. North-Rhine Westphalia and Thuringia became the last two regions to implement smokefree air in public places, following the rest who went smokefree in late 2007.

The German Cancer Association, which maintains that more than 3,000 people die from secondhand smoke in Germany annually, says that the extension of the legislation to all states means, “people can breathe a sigh of relief.”

### **Switzerland**

Switzerland's two largest population centres, Geneva and Zurich, lead the way to cleaner air by introducing new smokefree air laws. Geneva introduced the law in early July, which includes bars and restaurants, while Zurich's legislation includes all public buildings. Simon Küffer of the Swiss Lung League welcomed the moves by Geneva and Zurich to protect the public from the risks of secondhand smoke.

