



# Campaign for Smokefree Air Newsletter

## **Smokefree advocates make their case about “life and death” legislation before House committee**

Advocates for smokefree workplaces made their case before the House Commerce Committee in June when they testified on House Bill 4163 and urged its immediate passage. HB 4163 would create smokefree workplaces statewide, including restaurants and bars.

CSA has been working with lawmakers in the House and Senate to make Michigan the 32<sup>nd</sup> state to embrace smokefree air and protect all workers from exposure to the dangerous toxins in secondhand smoke. With thirty-one states with comprehensive smokefree workplace policies, the majority of Americans now live in a place with smokefree workplace protection laws.

“This hearing means a great deal to the Campaign for Smokefree Air and the many Michigan residents that support keeping workers and business patrons safe,” said Judy Stewart, campaign manager for CSA. “We are thankful for the opportunity given to us in June by Rep. Andy Meisner. Lawmakers need to take notice of their constituents’ consistent demand for smokefree air and pass comprehensive, statewide legislation.”

### **The Testimonies**

The House Commerce Committee listened as lawmakers, doctors, and victims of secondhand smoke gave their testimonies on why Michigan should go smokefree.

“Being exposed to secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard and we should care about the environments in which our constituents work and spend their time,” said Rep. Brenda Clack, D-Flint. “Secondhand smoke doesn’t obey non-smoking signs because it knows no boundaries. Michigan’s hard workers and their families deserve to breathe clean, healthy, smokefree air while at work and while dining.”



**Rep. Clack** went on to testify that in the June 2006 report by the U.S. Surgeon General, nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at home or work increased their risk of developing heart disease by 25 to 30 percent and lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent.

“I have been a devoted advocate for smokefree legislation for almost ten years and House Bill 4163 is the broadest proposal ever put forth in Michigan,” said Sen. Ray Basham, D-Taylor. “Whether they’re bartenders and mechanics or accountants and contractors, people shouldn’t be put at risk by being exposed to secondhand smoke at the workplace.”

**Sen. Basham** also testified that there’s a solid consensus among both public and expert opinions, and there’s more bipartisan support in the state Legislature than ever before. The government has numerous regulations in place to protect people at work and yet we are letting this serial killer roam our offices, restaurants and factory floors unchecked, Basham told his colleagues.

**Carrie Klein** testified on behalf of her sister, Pam Klein, who passed away from secondhand smoke.

“I truly wish that I could introduce you to Pam in person, but my sister, -- who never smoked -- died two years ago from a cancer caused by other peoples’ smoking. She was just 49 years old and she left behind her husband and two 15-year-old boys,” Klein began. “We watched Pam

battle her cancer for three years. Pam lost her appetite and grew horribly thin. She developed ugly rashes all over her face and neck, lost all of her hair -- even her eyebrows and eye lashes – she lost all of her energy and she slowly lost her ability to breathe.”



Pam Klein was another victim from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Every work environment that she was in was filled with secondhand smoke. It was while working in those environments that she inhaled the smoke from other people’s cigarettes, cigars and pipes.



**Daniel Haberman**, bar owner of the Bosco Lounge in Ferndale, testified in support of smokefree air. The Bosco has not gone smokefree because they, like many restaurants and bars, are afraid of losing business to establishments that allow smoking. Haberman stated that there should be a level playing field for the restaurant and bar industry in Michigan. If everyone goes smokefree, everyone will benefit - business, health, employees and owners.



Daniel Haberman; pictured left

Smokefree air is good for business. After New York City went smokefree in March 2003, the New York Department of Finance reported 10,600 new jobs in the city's bars and restaurants between March and December 2003; and tax receipts increased by 8.7 percent or approximately \$1.4 million.

Michigan residents want smokefree air. A statewide poll showed that nearly two-thirds of Michigan registered voters favor a new law creating smokefree environments in all Michigan workplaces. The poll also found that nearly 80 percent of Michigan registered voters said they would be more likely or just as likely to patronize their favorite restaurants if they went smokefree.

The committee also heard from several other dedicated advocates, including:

- **Dr. Kenneth Warner**, Director, University of Michigan Tobacco Research Network
- **Dr. Ronald Davis**, President, American Medical Association
- **Dr. Greg Holzman**, Chief Medical Officer, Michigan Department of Community Health
- **Michelle Thurman**, co-owner with ex-NHL player Dino Ciccarelli of Club 22, Shelby Township
- **Bill Barnes**, cancer survivor
- **Amalie Helms**, an asthmatic for more than 30 years and mother of five-year old asthmatic twins, who also lost her step father to lung cancer and pulmonary hypertension



### **What's Next?**

The committee did not take a vote however a vote is anticipated on HB 4163 sometime soon. Once the legislation is reported from the House Commerce Committee, it will go before the entire House of Representatives. We need all advocates to contact their state representative and encourage support of the HB 4163.

To find out how to contact your local lawmaker, please visit [www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org](http://www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org).





## **Smokefree Podcasts Are Launched**

The Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) has launched a series of podcasts to raise awareness on the benefits of adopting smokefree legislation in Michigan. The series calls on a variety of Michigan residents, advocates, restaurant owners and health professionals to share personal accounts of why a smokefree Michigan is critical to the health of all residents.

The series was kicked off by Dr. Ron Davis, President of the American Medical Association, followed by Michigan native and bar owner, Daniel Haberman of the Bosco Lounge. The podcast will be available on iTunes and other online podcast directories. To listen to the podcast, please visit our Web site at <http://makemyairsmokefree.org/podcasts.php>.



## Celebrating our Success

The Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) is proud to announce three new organizations have joined the fight to create smokefree work environments in Michigan. They include:



- ✓ Everyday People Café (Douglas, MI)
- ✓ M&M Café (Dearborn, MI)
- ✓ Osta's Lebanese Cuisine (East Grand Rapids, MI)

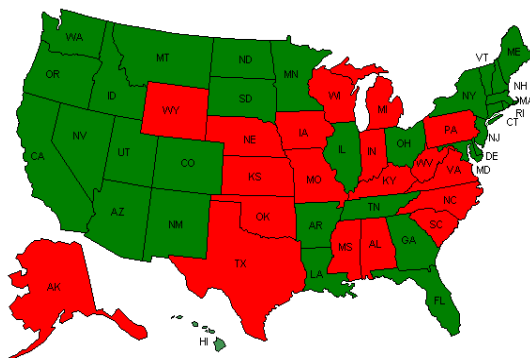
Welcome to our newest advocates! For the complete list of organizations that support smokefree air, click the following link or copy and paste it into your Web browser: <http://www.makemiairsmokefree.org/show-your-support.php>.

If you know of an organization or business interested in joining our campaign, please have them visit Pledge Your Group's Support at <http://www.makemiairsmokefree.org/show-your-support.php>.



## Smokefree is Catching On

With the recent additions of **New Hampshire** and **Oregon**, there are now 31 smokefree states.



### Green (31)

*Smokefree worksites, restaurants and/or bars*

*\* Also Washington, D.C.*

### Red (19)

*In the process of becoming smokefree / No statewide action to ensure smokefree air*