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## **Granholm once again calls on lawmakers to enact smokefree legislation in her State of the State address**

LANSING, Mich. –During her State of the State address, Gov. Jennifer Granholm, once again, strongly urged Michigan lawmakers to pass comprehensive smokefree workplace legislation.

“We again applaud the governor’s comments tonight and her support for smokefree air,” said Susan Schechter, CSA spokesperson and director of advocacy at the American Lung Association of Michigan. “Many lawmakers have done their research and know that in 2006 U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona released a report stating the only way to protect Americans from secondhand smoke is through comprehensive smokefree workplace legislation and policies. It’s time for lawmakers to stop dancing around the issue and finally listen to the state’s leader as well as their constituents and pass comprehensive smokefree air legislation this year.”

With a new term beginning, there has been a groundswell of support from lawmakers, evident by the four bills that have been introduced thus far from both chambers. In addition to the bills, a Smokefree Air Caucus, led by long-time smokefree air supporter Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor), Rep. Joan Bauer (D-Lansing), Sen. Roger Kahn (R-Saginaw Twp.) and Rep. Paul Scott (R-Grand Blanc) is being developed within the legislature. The caucus will be bicameral and bipartisan and will ask lawmakers to sign a pledge to work on smokefree air legislation.

The Governor once again made a call to action on smokefree legislation during her annual speech. The governor also called for lawmakers to act in 2007. As stated in Gov. Granholm’s written remarks:

“Tonight, I am also renewing the call for Michigan to finally join the 34 other states that have banned smoking in public places. Each year in our state, smoking is responsible for \$3.4 billion in health care costs. Factor in the \$3.8 billion in productivity losses caused by smoking and it’s clear that passing smoke-free legislation is a wise investment for our health and our health care system. The scientific evidence is unequivocal. The benefits to our residents are indisputable. And passing smoke-free legislation that protects Michigan workers is the right thing to do.”

### **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, and Michigan State Medical Society, as well as other statewide groups that are committed to passing a smokefree workplace law. For more information about the Campaign for Smokefree Air, please visit [www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org](http://www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org).

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