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Sen. Bishop Commits to Winter Hearing on Smokefree Workplace Legislation

Bishop makes announcement at recent League of Women Voters Forum

LANSING, Mich. – Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R- Rochester, recently announced that a Senate committee will hold a hearing this winter on smokefree workplace legislation.

House Bill 4163, which make all workplaces smokefree, including restaurants and bars with the exception of Detroit casinos, was approved by the state House in November and was sent to the Senate Government Operations and Regulatory Reform Committee, which is chaired by Bishop. He made the announcement at the Jan. 28 League of Women Voters Forum at Oakland Community College.

The open forum invited audience members to ask questions fielded by a moderator, to a panel comprised of Sen. Bishop and House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford Township. The second audience question of the night was in regards to smokefree legislation. Dillon expressed his support for the measure and pointed out that the House had already approved the legislation. Bishop discussed the recent popularity of the issue and added that his Senate committee would have a hearing on this issue this winter.

“We are delighted at Bishop’s comments and his potential leadership on our issue,” said Susan Schechter, spokesperson for the Campaign for Smokefree Air, who also attended the event. “It was clear from the audience’s reaction of immediate applause that they were too. We know this is something Michigan residents want, and it’s good for business and for our health. It’s a no-brainer.”

A new poll released by Lansing-based EPIC/MRA shows an overwhelming majority of Republican voters are supportive of legislation to make all Michigan worksites smokefree. Seventy-seven percent of those interviewed favored smokefree workplace legislation, including 62 percent who “strongly favor” and 67 percent in favor of legislation that would make bars and restaurants smokefree. The numbers from this latest poll are consistent with the poll CSA conducted three years ago of Republican and Democrat voters.

About CSA

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with nearly 250 members, including leadership from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of Michigan, Michigan Hospital Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Pfizer and Michigan State Medical Society, as well as other statewide groups that support making workplaces smokefree, including restaurants and bars. For more information about the Campaign for Smokefree Air, please visit www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org.

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