

Righteous smoking ban

In response to the April 28 Press editorial, "Smoke-free personal choice," I'd like to stress the importance of my effort to provide smoke-free environments in all bars, restaurants and workplaces.

The health of Michigan residents is important, and as a state it's time to join the 12 other states and numerous municipalities that have made their food service establishments smoke-free.

People should not be forced to breath in cigarette smoke when they go out for the night. Smokers do have a right to smoke but our citizens, children, elderly, asthmatics and pregnant moms also have a right not to be exposed to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

Numerous other health care issues are affected by second-hand smoke, allergies and emphysema cost our health care system a great deal. Dealing with second-hand smoke I believe will save dollars in health care as well as lives.

This legislation is not only about health, it also makes good business sense. Michigan restaurants will benefit from a law creating smoke-free environments.

In a statewide poll conducted by Troy-based John Bailey & Associates, nearly 80 percent of 600 registered voters polled said they would be more likely or just as likely to patronize their favorite restaurants if they went smoke-free.

As a nurse, and more recently in the hospital with my daughter battling leukemia, I've seen the effects of cancer, a smoking-related disease. Serving the people of my district and the state, I believe this is the right thing to do.

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State Representative

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