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Nebraska becomes the 32nd smokefree state

Law protects employees in workplaces, including restaurants, bars and gaming facilities

LANSING, Mich. – The Campaign for Smokefree Air today applauds the Nebraska Legislature and Governor Dave Heineman for protecting all of the state’s employees and residents through recently passed comprehensive smokefree workplace legislation. The legislation will make all Nebraska workplaces smokefree, including restaurants, bars and gaming facilities.

“As states nationwide continue to show their commitment to protecting the health and safety of their residents by going smokefree, we must not ask ourselves if, but rather when will Michigan?” said Katherine Knoll, CSA spokesperson. “The people of Michigan are anxiously awaiting the Senate’s action on House Bill 4163.”

Nebraska’s smokefree legislation passed by an overwhelming majority of 34-14 and joins the wave of smokefree momentum across the country and the world. Turkey, a country that consumes more than 5 billion packs of cigarettes annually, also recently passed comprehensive smokefree legislation.

In June 2006, U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona reported that the only way to protect Americans from the dangers of secondhand smoke was through comprehensive smokefree workplace legislation and policies.

HB 4163, which makes all workplaces smokefree, including restaurants and bars, was approved by the state House in November and was sent to the Senate Government Operations and Regulatory Reform Committee, which is chaired by Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop.

About CSA

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with 260 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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