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Another Statewide Survey Proves Residents Want a Smokefree Michigan

Legislators need to listen to their constituents

Lansing, Mich. – Officials for the Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) today said they are not at all surprised to see that a strong majority of Michigan residents support smokefree worksites, including restaurants and bars. In a recent MIRS survey of 600 respondents, 61 percent of Michigan residents supported smokefree places.

“Once again, a survey is showing that the people of Michigan want smokefree air,” said Judy Stewart, spokesperson for CSA. “It’s time for lawmakers to listen to their constituents, which they were elected to do, and support statewide smokefree legislation.”

The prospect of a smokefree Michigan received broad support from Republicans and Democrats alike, in almost all regions of the state, according to the MIRS poll. This sentiment follows a national trend, with 25 states, plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico currently smokefree.

Secondhand smoke exposure will cause 12,000 otherwise healthy nonsmokers to die from cancer, 3,000 specifically from lung cancer. Bar and restaurant employees are 50-percent more likely than the general population to develop lung cancer, largely due to secondhand smoke exposure on the job.

Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor), Sen. Tom George (R-Texas Township) and Rep. Brenda Clack (D-Flint) are sponsoring bills to make workplaces smokefree, including restaurants, bars, factories, hospitals and more. Senate Bills 109 and 110 and House Bill 4163 are awaiting Senate and House committee action.

About CSA

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with more than 60 members, including leadership from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of Michigan, Michigan Hospital Association and Michigan State Medical Society, as well as other statewide groups who support eliminating secondhand smoke dangers in workplaces, including restaurants and bars. For more information about the Campaign for Smokefree Air, please visit www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org.

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