



Legislative Update  
and Action Alert

May 22, 2009

**Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!**

# **HB 2 Signed by Governor; Restaurants and Bars to be Smoke-Free Jan 2, 2010!**

## **Please Thank Legislators**

On Tuesday, May 19, Governor Beverly Perdue signed into law House Bill 2 "Prohibit Smoking in Certain Public Places" before a packed house in the Old House Chamber of the NC Capitol Building. It was a ceremony full of pomp and circumstance and worthy of the historic nature of the event. The Alliance's members and partners were prominently represented both behind the Governor as she signed the bill and as attendees viewing the official signature and the transition of HB 2 from bill to law. The overwhelming presence of Alliance members and partners at this historic event was a testament to the strength of the coalition which guided, along with key partners, the passage of this bill.

The final version of HB 2 will go into effect on Jan. 2, 2010 and provide protection from secondhand smoke in restaurants and bars across the state. HB 2 also authorizes some expansion of local control so that local governments can pass local ordinances restricting smoking in some other public places, including some worksites.

### **HB 2 Health Impact**

When HB 2 becomes law, 69% of the workforce, or nearly 2.8 million North Carolina workers, will be protected by smoke-free policies. In addition, millions more North Carolinians will be protected from short-term exposure when spending time in our restaurants and bars. Studies have shown that smoke-free laws can reduce deaths and hospital admissions due to heart attack by 20%; In North Carolina, this would translate to more than 4,000 admissions and 800 deaths due to heart attacks. This will save us more than \$15 million in health care costs. More than 395,000 North Carolina bar and restaurant workers will be able to go to work knowing that their hearts and lungs are protected by smoke-free policies.

### **HB 2 Resources**

A summary of HB 2 as law from the Institute of Government as well as Alliance talking points on the expected health impact from the implementation of HB 2 will be available on the Alliance website later today at [www.ncallianceforhealth.org](http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org).

For those of you who could not attend the bill signing but would like to see the bill signing, WRAL has video of the entire event at: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/politics/video/5177100/>

Link to HB 2 Signing Slide show produced by Alliance Executive Director Lisa Familo:

[http://www.slide.com/r/5tCLyZ827j-7bztbFf1HM6P0nmVM3lm1?previous\\_view=mscd\\_embedded\\_url&view=original](http://www.slide.com/r/5tCLyZ827j-7bztbFf1HM6P0nmVM3lm1?previous_view=mscd_embedded_url&view=original)

## **Thank You's**

The completion of HB 2's legislative journey is *historic* for a tobacco state like North Carolina and marks a significant accomplishment for the members and partners of the NC Alliance for Health. Though the Alliance's work will not be done until *all* NC workers are protected from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, it is important that we take a moment to savor and acknowledge this huge accomplishment for public health.

And that includes saying *THANK YOU AGAIN* to all of the members and partners of the NC Alliance for Health who have worked tirelessly for many years to pass a good, strong smoke-free bill. HB 2 would not now be *LAW* without all of the dedicated advocates who have made contact with legislators, sometimes multiple times, over multiple years. And, we thank the organizational members of the Alliance who have contributed significant staff time and resources to both advocate at the General Assembly and rally their members around the smoke-free issue. **THANK YOU!**

## **Please THANK your Legislators, Governor and Lt. Governor for Supporting HB 2!**

**We must also take a moment to thank *All* General Assembly members from both the House and Senate, as well as Governor Perdue and Lieutenant Governor Dalton, who have made smoke-free restaurants and bars a reality!**

Visit [www.smokefreenc.org](http://www.smokefreenc.org) to say thank you! Simply point and click to send a thank you message.

Please forward to friends, family and colleagues so they can also show their appreciation for our elected leaders' support for a smoke-free North Carolina! It is critical that they know their vote made a difference in the health of North Carolinians from across the state.

These folks have all shown leadership and commitment to improving public health through their support of HB 2. They deserve your thanks.

**Please take just one minute to say thank you!**

**Thank You for your efforts to make North Carolina Smoke-Free!**

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**Alliance Legislative Updates written and produced by Pam Seamans.**

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**Or, go to [www.ncallianceforhealth.org](http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org) for talking points and other resources.**

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