



# Resolution in Support of Eliminating Secondhand Smoke in NC's Worksites and Public Places

**November 2010**

**WHEREAS**, the 2006 Surgeon's General Report found overwhelming evidence that secondhand smoke exposure is a risk to anyone<sup>1</sup> and that the Surgeon General of the United States stated that "The scientific evidence is now indisputable: secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance. It is a serious health hazard."<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, secondhand smoke is a leading cause of preventable death in the United States, causing the deaths of more than 50,000 Americans per year<sup>3</sup> and an estimated 1,220 to 2,180 North Carolina adults, children and babies<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified secondhand tobacco smoke as a known human lung carcinogen, and therefore concludes that secondhand smoke is a health risk to nonsmokers<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization states that secondhand smoke is a human carcinogen for which there is no "safe" level of exposure<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, secondhand smoke has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, and asthma in both smokers and non-smokers<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns that all patients with or at increased risk of coronary heart disease should avoid all indoor environments that permit smoking<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show that infants and children are especially vulnerable to secondhand smoke, suffering more respiratory problems, ear infections, asthma and sudden infant death syndrome, as a result of exposure<sup>6</sup>, and pregnant women exposed to secondhand smoke are at increased risk to have low birth-weight babies<sup>9</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, no ventilation system can remove all the harmful elements in secondhand smoke from the air, according to the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Condition Engineers (ASHRAE)<sup>10</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, smoke-free air policies do not have a negative economic impact on businesses<sup>11</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of North Carolinians and other Americans do not smoke<sup>12 13</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, worksites and public places are locations where children, members of the community and employees are exposed to secondhand smoke; and

**WHEREAS**, smoke-free air policies have been shown to protect the public from exposure to secondhand smoke, and help smokers reduce the number of cigarettes consumed or quit entirely<sup>14</sup>;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the undersigned endorses making all North Carolina worksites and public places 100% smoke-free.

*Approved by the membership 4-06*

**I am signing as:**

**\_\_\_ an individual:**

Individual Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ on behalf of my organization:**

Signature of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Home Personal Address OR Organization Business Address)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**(OVER)**

**Mail Signed Resolutions to:**

NC Alliance for Health; 3131 RDU Center, Suite 100, Morrisville, NC 27560  
Telephone: 919-463-8328 / [ncalliance@heart.org](mailto:ncalliance@heart.org) / [www.ncallianceforhealth.org](http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org)

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- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General—Executive Summary*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services news release “New Surgeon General’s Report Focuses on the Effects of Secondhand Smoke” Downloaded February 2007 at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060627.html>
- <sup>3</sup> Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights (August 25, 2010). *Secondhand smoke*. Downloaded November 11, 2010 from <http://www.no-smoke.org/getthefacts.php?id=13>.
- <sup>4</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids “The Toll of Tobacco in North Carolina” Fact Sheet, downloaded March 1, 2006 at: <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=NC>
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders*. Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;1992. Pub. No. EPA/600/6-90/006F.
- <sup>6</sup> World Health Organization. /International Consultation on Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) and Child Health./ January 11-14, 1999 (WHO/NCD/TFI/99.10)
- <sup>7</sup> National Cancer Institute. *Health Effects of Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke. Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph No. 10*. Bethesda, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute; 1999.
- <sup>8</sup> Pechacek, TF and Babb, S How acute and reversible are the cardiovascular risks of secondhand smoke? *BMJ*. 2004 Apr 24;328(7446):980-3.
- <sup>9</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services. *Women and smoking: a report of the Surgeon General*. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 2001.
- <sup>10</sup> Samet, J.; Bohanon, Jr., H.R.; Coultas, D.B.; Houston, T.P.; Persily, A.K.; Schoen, L.J.; Spengler, J.; Callaway, C.A., "ASHRAE position document on environmental tobacco smoke," American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), 2005.
- <sup>11</sup> Scollo, M., Lal, A., Hyland, A., Glantz, SA. Review of the quality of studies on the economic effects of smoke-free policies on the hospitality industry. *Tobacco Control*, 12: 13-20, 2003.
- <sup>12</sup> Centers for Disease Prevention and Control: State-specific prevalence of cigarette smoking and quitting among adults — United States, 2004. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 2005;54(44):1124–1127.
- <sup>13</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cigarette use among high school students — United States, 1991–2003. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 2004; 53(23):499–502.
- <sup>14</sup> Zaza, S., Peter A. Briss, PA, Harris, KW (eds), *The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health? Task Force on Community Preventive Services*, Oxford University Press, 2005.