

THE FACTS ABOUT...

State-wide clean indoor air laws

The air we breathe is a precious commodity that is too often taken for granted in Michigan. Unfortunately, you can walk into many workplaces, bars, restaurants, bowling alleys, hotels and other places in Michigan and have to breathe in dangerous and harmful secondhand smoke. Our legislators have a chance to follow in the footsteps of other states and enact comprehensive clean indoor air laws that would improve the health of all Michigan residents.

Current Laws

The Michigan Clean Indoor Air Act provides that smoking is prohibited in public places except in designated areas, but many areas are not covered by the Act.

There are also laws in Michigan related to restaurants and smoking sections, but these simply aren't strong enough. The current laws state that a portion of every restaurant must be set aside as a non-smoking section. But, this doesn't remove the health risk of dining in a smoking environment.

Legislative Options

Legislators have options in terms of what they can support. The most comprehensive and complete course of action would be to pass a smoke-free bill that would prohibit smoking in workplaces and public places, including restaurants and bars.

Another proposal would be to ban smoking in restaurants and bars statewide. Such a policy would protect the employees and customers of restaurants and bars from the dangerous effects of secondhand smoke.

A proposal to allow local governments that want to ban smoking in restaurants and bars in their

communities to do so, should also be considered. Under current law, local governments are preempted from doing this.

Michigan is currently suffering tough budget times, and one benefit of implementing clean indoor air laws is that they are essentially free. Furthermore, they can save the state money by reducing healthcare costs. Legislators are looking for cost-effective ways of making changes in the state, and clean indoor air laws do just that.

Other States

A number of states, including Delaware, Florida, New York and Vermont have passed smoke-free workplace legislation. Some states, such as Florida, Delaware, California and New York have passed laws that prohibit smoking in bars and restaurants. Michigan could join these states in leading the charge towards reducing the tragic toll of tobacco and secondhand smoke in the state.

What you can do

We encourage you to write a letter to your state Representative and Senator urging them to support clean indoor air laws.

You can find contact information for your Senator at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/findyoursenator>.

You can find information for your Representative at http://www.house.state.mi.us/LocateRep.asp#Locate_Rep.

You can also write letters to the editor of your local newspaper showing support for state laws increasing clean indoor air.



A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PROMOTING TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENTS
AND TO IMPROVING HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.