

NALBOH Resolution on Smokefree Workplaces

WHEREAS, tobacco smoke is a major source of pollution in most indoor air environments, particularly office work sites, and has been classified as a Group A carcinogen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (1); and

WHEREAS, the toxins in tobacco smoke kill over 438,000 people per year in the United States. Secondhand smoke causes over 3,400 lung cancer deaths annually, as well as exacerbation of lung disease in nonsmoking adults and respiratory problems in children (2,3); and

WHEREAS, involuntary smoking has many non-fatal, but serious effects; breathing secondhand smoking makes the eyes and nose burn, and can cause headaches and nausea in non-smokers (4); and

WHEREAS, use of ventilation systems cannot control secondhand smoke (1); and

WHEREAS, bans on indoor smoking have not had a negative effect on local economies in which they are enacted (5);

WHEREAS, there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke (1);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) supports smokefree policies in all workplaces including bars, restaurants, private and public workplaces, and casinos;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NALBOH supports clean air laws that protect all individuals from secondhand smoke.

Adopted May 2005; Revised and Adopted June 2009

References

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: 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.
2. American Lung Association website. Available at: http://www.lungusa.org/site/c.dvLUK9O0E/b.22937/k.A576/Tobacco_Control.htm.
3. American Lung Association Fact Sheet: Smoking. Available at: http://www.lungusa.org/site/c.dvLUK9O0E/b.39853/k.5D05/Smoking_101_Fact_Sheet.htm
4. California Environmental Protection Agency. Identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant. Executive Summary. June 2005. Available at: <http://repositories.cdlib.org/context/tc/article/1194/type/pdf/viewcontent>
5. Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights. *Economic Impact of Smokefree Ordinances: An Overview*. August 2006. Available at: <http://www.no-smoke.org/document.php?id=219>