

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

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WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is a leading cause of preventable death in the country, causing the deaths of 35,000 Americans each year and an estimated 1,220 to 2,180 North Carolina adults, children and babies;

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified secondhand tobacco smoke as a Class A carcinogen (a known cancer causing agent), and therefore concludes that secondhand smoke is a health risk to nonsmokers; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, stroke, emphysema and asthma in both smokers and non-smokers; and

WHEREAS, studies show that children are especially vulnerable to secondhand smoke, suffering more respiratory problems, ear infections, asthma and sudden infant death syndrome, as a result of exposure to it<sup>4</sup>, and pregnant women exposed to secondhand smoke are at increased risk to have low birth-weight babies and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that as little as 30 minutes of exposure to secondhand smoke can trigger a heart attack in someone with heart disease or risk factors for heart disease; and

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

WHEREAS, smoke-free air policies do not have a negative economic impact on businesses; and

WHEREAS, the majority of North Carolinians and other Americans do not smoke ; 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;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the NC Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination & Control endorses making all North Carolina worksites and public places 100% smoke-free.

***ADOPTED: July 28, 2006***