

**RESOLUTION OF THE
TENNESSEE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

TENNESSEE SMOKEFREE AIR

WHEREAS, smoking is responsible for the deaths of more than 9,600 adult smokers in Tennessee each year; and

WHEREAS, increasing scientific evidence further demonstrates that the harmful effects of tobacco smoke are not confined to smokers, but also cause severe discomfort and in some cases grave illnesses to non-smokers, who constitute a growing majority of the population; and

WHEREAS, second-hand smoke is also a concern in the workplace, where employees who work in smoke-filled businesses suffer a 20-25% higher risk of heart attack and higher rates of death from cardiovascular disease and cancer, as well as increased acute respiratory disease and measurable decrease in lung function; and

WHEREAS, any exposure to secondhand smoke represents an increased cancer risk, there is no safe level of exposure; and

WHEREAS, annually, approximately 1,000 Tennesseans will die as a result of others' smoking (secondhand smoke); and

WHEREAS, secondhand tobacco smoke is an indoor air pollutant containing a complex mixture of more than 4,000 chemicals and more than 50 carcinogens, and

WHEREAS, protecting the public health, comfort and environment by prohibiting smoking in public places, at public meetings, and in places of employment; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, has concluded that (1) there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; (2) secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke; (3) children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, ear problems and more severe asthma; (4) exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system; (5) exposure to secondhand smoke is linked to an increased risk for lung cancer among nonsmokers, (6) establishing smoke free workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace; and,

WHEREAS, evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke-free policies and laws have no significant adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tennessee Public Health Association urges the General Assembly to enact comprehensive legislation to prohibit smoking in any enclosed indoor workplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly, and Tennessee County Mayors and that a copy of this resolution is distributed to all members of the Association.

Barbara Medlin
President

Doris G. Spain
Executive Director

Karen Pershing
Resolutions Committee Chair