

SMOKE★FREE TEXAS

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A SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE LAW WOULD BENEFIT TEXANS

All Texas employees and customers deserve protection from the dangers of secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure in indoor workplaces. A smoke-free workplace law is a no-cost way to help prevent the many diseases and health risks caused by SHS exposure and would save millions of taxpayer dollars. In fact, a 2011 poll showed that 70 percent of Texans support a smoke-free workplace law.

Currently, 29 states and 38 Texas cities are covered by smoke-free workplace legislation. Without a statewide smoke-free workplace law, millions of Texans will never be protected from SHS exposure. These Texans live in unincorporated cities or rural areas where no entity exists to pass or enforce this type of legislation.

A smoke-free workplace law would benefit the Texas economy by establishing a healthier workforce and cost-savings for businesses and taxpayers.

- According to a [2011 study](#), a statewide smoke-free workplace law in Texas would result in approximately \$404 million in health care and productivity savings to the state's economy biennially.¹
- Smoke-free policies do not affect restaurant revenue or the sale of alcoholic beverages in bars, according to a 2000 analysis of sales tax data in four smoke-free Texas cities: Arlington, Austin, Plano and Wichita Falls.²
- A 2003 study that provided a comprehensive evaluation of all available studies on the economic impact of smoke-free workplace laws around the world concluded that these studies report no impact or a positive impact on sales or employment.³
- Smoke-free businesses ultimately save money on health care costs, insurance, maintenance and other direct or indirect costs of secondhand smoke.⁴

A smoke-free law would protect the health of all Texas employees and customers.

- Scientific evidence indicates there is no risk-free level of SHS exposure.⁸
- SHS is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, low birth-weight births, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma and other health problems.⁹
- SHS is the third leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.¹⁰, killing more than 42,000 Americans each year.¹¹
- Cigarette smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals; more than 70 are cancer causing.¹²

All Texans deserve to breathe clean indoor air!

Sources:

1. "Smoke-Free Environments: The Benefits to Texans and Their Communities", conducted by the Texas Health Institute, The University of Texas School of Public Health Austin Regional Campus and Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health and funded by the American Cancer Society (2011). 2. S. Hayslett, J.A. and P. Huang Impact of Clean Indoor Air Ordinances on Restaurant Revenues in Four Texas Cities: Arlington, Austin, Plano and Wichita Falls 1987-1999. (2000). 3. Scollo M, et al, [Review of the quality of studies on the economic effects of smoke-free policies on the hospitality industry](#), Tobacco Control (2003); 12: 13-20. 4. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) The Costs and Benefits of Smoking Restrictions: An Assessment of the Smoke-Free Environmental Act of 1993 (H.R. 3434).(1994). Office of Indoor air and Radiation. Washington, D.C.: U.S. EPA. 5 Baselice & Associates survey of 501 Texas adults, January 2011. 6 Ibid 7. Ibid 8. [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](#) 9. Ibid 10. Glantz, S.A. & Parmley, W., "[Passive Smoking and Heart Disease: Epidemiology, Physiology, and Biochemistry](#)," Circulation, 1991; 83(1): 1-12.11. 5. Wendy Max, H.-Y. S. (2012). Deaths From Secondhand Smoke Exposure in the United States: Economic Implications. American Journal of Public Health, 2173-2180. 12. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010.