



## **Smoke-Free Policies are the Only Solution**

Passing a 100% smoke-free law that protects every person in Illinois is the only effective way of eliminating all the health dangers caused by secondhand smoke. It's as simple as that.

Many alternative ideas have been raised, but they all fall short. They fail to fully eliminate secondhand smoke and the health dangers that come with it.

### **What if restaurants were smoke-free during the day when families and children are present, and then allowed smoking after-hours?**

- Secondhand smoke knows no age limits. Its effects are just as harmful among adults as they are among children.
- The cancer-causing agents generated from second-hand smoke remain in the air for up to two weeks. So the people patronizing the restaurant in the "smoke-free" hours are still in danger from the lingering carcinogens.
- Just because air no longer smells like smoke, does not mean it is safe.
- Those who work in the restaurants after-hours have the right to a safe workplace just as much as those working during the "smoke-free" hours.

### **Couldn't a good ventilation system solve the problem?**

- Ventilation systems may reduce odor, but can't guard against secondhand smoke's health dangers.
- The association of engineers (ASHRAE) that design these systems states in a report that the effects of secondhand smoke can not be controlled by ventilation.
- In the June 28, 2006 Surgeon General's report, he states that the only way to fully protect non-smokers from exposure to secondhand smoke is to completely eliminate indoor smoking.

### **For those restaurants that have bar areas, why not make the restaurant smoke-free and allow smoking in the bar?**

- Secondhand smoke knows no boundaries.
- The chemicals from secondhand smoke can waft to all corners of an establishment, affecting everyone—workers and patrons alike.

### **If employees don't want to work in a smoky bar, then shouldn't they find a job somewhere else?**

- Every worker has a right to safe working conditions.
- One 8-hour shift in a smoky workplace is equivalent to smoking 16 cigarettes.

- No one should have to sacrifice his or her health for a paycheck.
- The health and well-being of those in the hospitality industry is no less important than those working in office buildings.

**Join Smoke-Free Illinois.**

**If you or your organization would like to join the fight to make Illinois Smoke-Free, contact us at**

**312.279.7378.**

**[www.smokefreeillinois.net](http://www.smokefreeillinois.net)**