

Resolution 3-05

Support for Smokefree Air in All Indoor Workplaces and Public Places

Submitted by:
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RECOGNIZING THAT the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program has listed secondhand smoke as a known carcinogen¹; and

RECOGNIZING THAT numerous studies have found that breathing secondhand smoke – also known as environmental tobacco smoke – is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer and that the National Cancer Institute determined in 1999 that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of up to 65,000 Americans annually²; and

RECOGNIZING THAT secondhand smoke is particularly hazardous to elderly people, individuals with cardiovascular disease, and individuals with impaired respiratory function, including asthmatics and those with obstructive airway disease and that children exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased risk of asthma, respiratory infections, sudden infant death syndrome, developmental abnormalities, and cancer³; and

RECOGNIZING THAT the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that secondhand smoke cannot be reduced to safe levels in businesses by high rates of ventilation and that air cleaners, which are only capable of filtering the particulate matter and odors in smoke, do not eliminate the known toxins in secondhand smoke⁴; and

RECOGNIZING THAT the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) has also concluded that it is not possible for the separation of spaces, ventilation, or “air cleaning” technology to effectively eliminate the harms from exposure to secondhand smoke and ASHRAE supports indoor smoking bans as the only effective means of controlling health harms from secondhand smoke⁵; and

RECOGNIZING THAT research in communities where smokefree laws have been adopted has consistently shown no adverse economic impact to the hospitality industry with either neutral or positive economic effects following a smokefree workplace requirement⁶;

Therefore the Alaska Public Health Association resolves to:

Urge local policymakers to pass, implement, and enforce policies that protect workers and the public from secondhand smoke exposure in all indoor workplaces and public places.

Fiscal Considerations and Public Health Impact Statement

If this resolution passes, ALPHA could expect to incur minor postage and phone related costs associated with disseminating this information.

The intended impact of this resolution is to prevent disease and early death caused by exposure to secondhand smoke.

¹ Environmental Health Information Service (EHIS), "Environmental tobacco smoke: first listed in the Ninth Report on Carcinogens," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Public Health Service, National Toxicology Program, 2000.

² *National Cancer Institute (NCI), "Health effects of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke: the report of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph 10," Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute (NCI), August 1999.*

³ California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA), "Health effects of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke", Tobacco Control 6(4): 346-353, Winter, 1997.

⁴ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Indoor air facts no. 5: environmental tobacco smoke," Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), June 1989.

⁵ *Environmental Tobacco Smoke*, Position Document, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc., ASHRAE Board of Directors, June 30, 2005.

⁶ *American Journal of Public Health* 1997; 87(10):1687-1693; Glantz S, Smith L.

Approved November 28, 2005