



**Michigan Osteopathic
Association**



**STATEMENT OF MOA IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE
SMOKE FREE LEGISLATION
MICHIGAN HOUSE COMMITTEE REGULATORY REFORM**

On behalf of over 7,200 osteopathic physicians of Michigan who work hard every day to improve the health of their patients, we respectfully request that you pass comprehensive smoke free legislation that treats all employees in our State regardless of where they live equally. There can no longer be any doubt of the health risks of secondhand smoke. In fact the reason we are here today is because of the change in the evidence related to the substantial hazards of secondhand smoke. It was in 1986 that the Surgeon General first spoke of the hazards of involuntary smoke exposure – 1986. Since that time approximately 35 states have acted to protect the lives of their citizens and have enacted smoke free legislation. Also since the 1986 Surgeon General report, there have been hundreds of peer-reviewed medical studies that make the irrefutable scientific case that second hand smoke is a leading cause of death in the United States and in Michigan.

Thousands of hard working State residents every day have their health placed at risk by exposure to second hand smoke. By passing comprehensive smoke free legislation at this time we can greatly reduce that exposure. The Michigan Constitution provides some clear direction. Article 4 prescribes the duties of the legislative branch of government. Article 4, Section 51 states "The public health and general welfare of the people of the state are hereby declared to be matters of primary public concern. The legislature shall pass suitable laws for the protection and promotion of the public health." The extent of evidence in support of making Michigan smoke free is clear and our Constitution is also clear as to what the Legislature's responsibility is in such cases: **"pass suitable laws for the protection... of the public health."**

We can start that process today by reporting a comprehensive smoke free bill that gives all workers in Michigan the same level of protection from a documented substantial hazard to public health.

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