

March 12, 2012

**Testimony in Opposition to HB 2690  
Before the State of Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee**

**Presented by: Dr. John S. Neuberger**

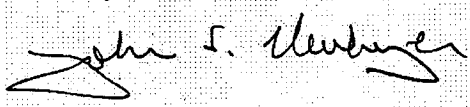
**Chairperson Brunk and Members of the Committee:**

I am opposed to HB 2690 because it would weaken the current Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act. It will allow an additional exemption for private businesses as long as the proprietor or other person in charge employs and serves only persons 21 years of age or older. This is a profoundly bad piece of legislation. Passing this bill would indicate a lack of support for a very important public health measure for disease prevention and control.

Environmental tobacco smoke includes many toxic chemical and physical agents which can cause numerous acute and chronic health problems, including lung cancer, heart disease, low birth-weight, bronchitis, and asthma. A strong clean indoor air law helps reduce both these exposures and the consequent related morbidity and mortality.

Because of health concerns second hand smoke exposure should be eliminated in all indoor workplaces and public places. The current law should be strengthened by reducing or eliminating exemptions instead of increasing them. For example, I would be in favor of eliminating the exemption for casino gaming floors.

Sincerely,



John S. Neuberger, DrPH, MPH, MBA  
Professor

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-12-12

Attachment # 5