



American Heart Association | American Stroke Association®

Midwest Affiliate
6800 W. 93rd Street Overland Park, KS 66212
www.heart.org

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2690

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2690. My name is Kevin Walker and I am regional vice president of advocacy for the American Heart Association.

The American Heart Association opposes HB 2690 and all other legislation that seeks to provide additional exemptions to the current statewide clean indoor air law. We believe ALL workers and patrons should be protected from the well-documented dangers of second hand smoke. Furthermore, we support elimination of the exemptions in the current law and would work with you on any good faith effort to eliminate the current exemptions.

- Surveys have shown that 77% of Kansans support the current law.
- The level of support has only grown since the law was initially passed.
- The current law has not had a negative impact on business or the economy.
- Since the current law was passed liquor excise tax receipts for the first full year are higher than the year prior.
- Since the current law was passed sales tax receipts – even when adjusted for the sales tax increase – are higher than before the law was enacted.

For years my organization has worked tirelessly to encourage communities and states to become smoke free. We have done this because the scientific evidence is very clear – **there is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoke**. Second hand-smoke produces immediate adverse effects on heart function, blood platelets, inflammation, endothelial function and the vascular system.

We have always advocated for comprehensive clean indoor air laws that are free from exemptions. Current Kansas law provides for several exemptions and **the American Heart Association supports eliminating all exemptions from the current law**. Additionally, **we oppose adding additional exemptions**.

I urge you to reject HB 2690.

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-12-12

Attachment # 14