

 **AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®**
Fighting for Air

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2690
House Federal and State Affairs
March 12, 2012

Dear Rep. Brunk and Members of the Committee:

American Lung Association, Plains-Gulf Region, strongly oppose HB 2690 and the efforts to add an exemption to the Kansas Clean Indoor Air Law for businesses that hire and cater only to adults over 21. We believe the current law is a good one and doesn't need any changes.

We believe the health of all Kansans is important. To agree with this law assumes that adults over 21 are not as affected by cigarettes and tobacco smoke. That is ludicrous and archaic. Everyone has the right to breathe smoke-free air.

The health benefit of banning smoking in public places has been noted by the medical and business worlds for years.

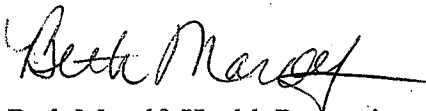
Our residents certainly seem to agree. In a January, 2011 survey of Kansas households, **77% of Kansans support the current Clean Indoor Air Law and 54% support laws protecting people from secondhand smoke.** The survey also reports that even 54% of smokers like the current law.

Smoke-free worksites (bars are a worksite) are good for business and good for people. Employees that are exposed to tobacco smoke over a regular workday miss more work due to illnesses and have higher health care costs which drive up insurance rates. Healthy employees are more productive and save money for the bottom line.

KDHE reports that the adult smoking rate in Kansas is 17%. That means that **more than 4 out of 5** adults do not smoke. These non-smokers go out to eat and spend money in bars. Many people have reported patronizing businesses more frequently now because they are smoke-free.

Also for your consideration: in this election year, 59% of Kansans report that they are less-likely to vote for a candidate that votes to repeal or weaken the current law. By supporting HB 2690, you jeopardize your chances for re-election.

Sincerely,



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