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## **Substitute for HB 2340 - Removal of the casino exemption from the smoking ban; addition of annual smoking event exemption**

**Presented in writing to  
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**By  
Richard Morrissey  
Health Policy Section Chair**

**February 2, 2012**

Chairman Brungardt and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to share these written comments on behalf of the statewide membership of the Kansas Public Health Association.

The Kansas Clean Indoor Act is likely the most significant positive policy change affecting the health of all Kansans to occur since the advent of other fundamental public health measures such as clean water, sanitary waste disposal, and childhood immunizations. However, the exemption of casinos from the act is inconsistent with the overall health policy and creates a class of workers that are unfairly excluded from the Act's critical protections.

Although the Act was controversial before it was adopted, there is now strong evidence that Kansans Across the state support the act. A statewide poll conducted in January 2011 found that 77% of voters support the law with 62 % in strong support. The same poll found that majority support of the law is strong across the political spectrum and in all of the state's major media markets.

The Kansas Public health Association supports removing all exemptions from the act and is in support Sub HB 2340 as a significant move in that direction. At the same time, we urge your caution to prevent this bill from becoming a vehicle to weaken the existing law.

Sn Fed & State  
Attachment 8

2-2-12