

**ARIZONA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION DOCUMENTATION FORM**

**Date Submitted:** 8/2/05

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**Date Revised:**

**Title of Resolution:** Support the Tobacco Free Arizona Initiative

**1. Statement of the Problem**

***Summary***

The health hazards of environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) are well documented, and most workers take it for granted that government will protect them from unwanted ETS in the workplace. Several states have already enacted smokefree workplace laws that include restaurants and bars. Yet workers in restaurants and bars remain unprotected across most of Arizona.

An initiative campaign will begin this fall to put a proposition on the ballot in Arizona to require smokefree workplaces statewide, including in restaurants and bars. AzPHA should support this campaign.

***Background***

Numerous studies have linked ETS to heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute has projected that ETS is responsible for the early deaths of 53,000 Americans annually (NCI Monograph #10, 1999). The Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program lists ETS as a known carcinogen (US DHHS, 2000, citing Cal. EPA, 1997). ETS is particularly hazardous to older adults, persons with cardiovascular disease, and persons with respiratory diseases. The CDC has issued a warning that anyone at risk for heart disease should avoid entering smoke-filled environments.

Abundant smokefree environments both protect nonsmokers in those environments and help to encourage cessation among smokers. Strong enforcement of nonsmoking areas is one of the essential components of successful tobacco prevention campaigns.

While a customer might arguably have the choice to avoid a smoke-filled environment, workers often do not. While many communities have smokefree workplace ordinances that exclude restaurants and bars, a great many workers are employed in these environments, and must inhale ETS as a condition of earning a living.

An initiative petition is being crafted for introduction this fall to require all workplaces in Arizona, including restaurants and bars, to be smokefree. AzPHA has long been on record as supporting smokefree workplaces (Resolution 93-1, Smokefree Campus). AzPHA has long been a strong advocate of tobacco control. It is only fitting that AzPHA be a strong supporter of this

initiative petition drive and of the following proposition.

**2. Statement of Desired Action**

AzPHA will support and encourage members to work for the smokefree Arizona initiative campaign.

**3. Which other groups or organizations support this effort?**

Principle authors of the initiative are the Arizona Heart Association, the American Lung Association of Arizona, and the Arizona Chapter of the American Cancer Society. Groups that will be active in the campaign include Arizonans for Nonsmokers Rights and Phoenix for Smoke-Free Workplaces.

**4. Describe relationship of this issue to the current AzPHA Legislative Priorities.**

Support for a Healthy Environment is one of the three main legislative priorities. In particular, tobacco control is one of only two areas specifically mentioned within this priority.

**5. Is this an issue for legislation?**

Yes, this is supportive of an initiative campaign and hopefully a following campaign in support of a proposition, with the aim of changing state law.

**6. Brief Financial and Public Health Analysis.**

Economic analyses of smokefree workplace legislation shows that the resulting economic effect is positive, even exclusive of the long term prevention of health care and other costs attributable to smoking..<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Scollo M, Lal, A, Hyland, A, Glantz S. (2003) Review of the quality of studies on the economic effects of smokefree policies on the hospitality industry. Tob Control. 12:13-20.

<sup>2</sup> Glantz S, Smith L (1994) The effect of ordinances requiring smokefree restaurants on restaurant sales. Am J Public Health 1994;84(7):1081-1085.

<sup>3</sup> Glantz S, Smith L. (1997) The effect of ordinances requiring smokefree restaurants and bars on revenues: A follow up. Am J Public Health 1997;87(10):1687-1693.

**PROPOSED AZPHA RESOLUTION**  
**Support the Tobacco Free Arizona Initiative**  
**September 2005**

**Whereas,** environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is a significant health hazard to all who are exposed, including employees; and

**Whereas,** no employee should be subject to inhaling ETS as a condition of employment; and

**Whereas,** workers in restaurants and bars are no less entitled than other workers to health and safety protections; and

**Whereas,** an initiative petition will begin in the fall of 2005 to place on the ballot a proposition to require all workplaces in Arizona to be smokefree, including restaurants and bars; and

**Whereas,** the Arizona Public Health Association has long supported environmental protections, worker health and safety, and tobacco control

**Therefore Be It Resolved that the Arizona Public Health Association:**

- 1. will support the Tobacco Free Arizona Initiative; and**
- 2. will encourage its members to work in support of the Tobacco Free Arizona Initiative.**