

SMOKE★FREE TEXAS

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SB355 and HB670 Will Benefit All Texans

The Smoke-Free Texas Coalition believes all Texas employees and customers have the right to breathe clean indoor air. All employees should be protected from exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace. Senate Bill 355 and House Bill 670, filed by Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) and Rep. Myra Crownover (R-Denton) respectively, proposes a comprehensive statewide smoke-free indoor workplace law to protect all Texans from the dangers of secondhand smoke exposure.

The state's economy benefits from a healthy workforce. A comprehensive statewide smoke-free workplace law is a no-cost way to help prevent the many diseases and health risks caused by secondhand smoke exposure.

Currently, 29 states and 34 Texas cities are covered by smoke-free legislation. Fifty-five percent of Texans living in incorporated areas are currently not covered by comprehensive smoke-free workplace legislation. Without a statewide smoke-free workplace law, 23 percent of Texans will remain unprotected from secondhand smoke exposure. These Texans live in unincorporated cities or rural areas where no entity exists to pass or enforce this type of legislation.

There is widespread support for a smoke-free workplace law in Texas.

- 70 percent of Texas voters favor a statewide law that would eliminate smoking in all indoor workplaces.¹
- Very few Texans (8 percent) indicated that they would go out to bars and restaurants less often than they do now if the Legislature were to make all restaurants and bars smoke free. In fact, a net increase of 16 percent of Texans would go out to bars and restaurants *more* often with a smoke-free law.²
- Texans believe the rights of customers and employees to breathe clean air in restaurants and bars (76 percent) is paramount to the right to smoke and owners to allow smoking inside their restaurants and bars (15 percent).³

Secondhand smoke is dangerous. A statewide smoke-free law would ensure protection for the health of Texas employees and customers.

- Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, low birth weight births, chronic lung ailments (such as bronchitis and asthma) and other health problems.⁴
- Cigarette smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals; more than 70 are cancer-causing chemicals.⁵ Some of these toxic chemicals include formaldehyde, benzene, arsenic and hydrogen cyanide.⁶

A statewide smoke-free policy would benefit the Texas economy by establishing a healthier workforce and cost-savings for businesses and taxpayers.

- Smoke-free policies do not affect restaurant revenue or the sale of alcoholic beverages in bars, according to a 2000 analysis of sales tax data in four smoke-free Texas cities: Arlington, Austin, Plano and Wichita Falls.⁷
- In 2003, a study that provided a comprehensive evaluation of all available studies on the economic impact of smoke-free workplace laws concluded that these studies report no impact or a positive impact of smoke-free restaurant and bar laws on sales or employment.⁸
- Smoke-free businesses ultimately save money on health care costs, insurance, maintenance and other direct or indirect costs of secondhand smoke.⁹

Tourism Thrives:

- Smoke-free policies do not affect tourism or hotel/motel revenues.^{10,11,12,13,14}
- California and New York tourism increased after the enactment of smoke-free policies.¹⁵
- As a result of the *Smoke-Free Meeting* campaign initiated by Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights in 2004, at least 27 organizations, representing millions of Americans, have committed to host meetings only in smoke-free cities, or negotiate smoke-free meeting venues in the absence of a smoke-free city.¹⁶

Sources:

1 Baseline & Associates survey of 501 Texas adults, January 2011. 2 Baseline & Associates survey of 501 Texas adults, January 2011. 3 Baseline & Associates survey of 501 Texas adults, January 2011. 4. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General – Executive Summary. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, (2006). 5. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010. 6. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General – Executive Summary. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, (2006). 7. S. Hayslett, J.A. and P. Huang Impact of Clean Indoor Air Ordinances on Restaurant Revenues in Four Texas Cities: Arlington, Austin, Plano and Wichita Falls 1987-1999. (2000). 8. Scollo M, et al, Review of the quality of studies on the economic effects of smoke-free policies on the hospitality industry, *Tobacco Control* (2003); 12: 13-20. 9. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) The Costs and Benefits of Smoking Restrictions: An Assessment of the Smoke-Free Environmental Act of 1993 (H.R. 3434). (1994). Office of Indoor air and Radiation. Washington, D.C.: U.S. EPA. 10. Glantz, S.A. and A. Charlesworth (1999). Tourism and Hotel Revenues Before and After Passage of Smoke-Free Restaurant Ordinances. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 281(20): 1911-1918. 11. Sciacca, J.P. and M.I. Ratliff (1998). Prohibiting Smoking in Restaurants: Effects on Restaurant Sales. *American Journal of Health Promotion* 12(3): 176-184. 12. Hyland, A., K.M. Cummings, and E. Nauenberg (1999). Analysis of Taxable Sales Receipts: Was New York City's Smoke-Free Indoor air Act Bad for Restaurant Business? *Journal of Public Health Management Practice* 5(1): 14-21. 13. Dai, Chifeng, et. Al. (2004). The Economic Impact of Florida's Smoke-Free Workplace Law. Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida, Arrington College of Business Administration, Bureau of Economic and Business Research. 14. Hahn, E.J., et al. (2005). Economic Impact of Lexington's Smoke-Free Law: A Progress Report. Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky, College of Nursing and Gatton College of Business and Economics. 15. Glantz, S.A. and A. Charlesworth (1999). 16. Americans for Nonsmokers Rights: Adopt a Smokefree Cities Meeting Resolution! Retrieved from <http://www.no-smoke.org/document.php?id=348>

Smoke-Free Texas is a broad coalition of organizations who believes all Texas employees have the right to breathe clean indoor air.

We support a statewide law to protect Texans from the dangers of secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace. Our members include the American Cancer Society, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Americans for Non-Smokers' Rights, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, LIVESTRONG and the Texas Parent Teacher Association.