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Contact: Chastity Mitchell
Smoke-Free Tennessee
615-308-0505

COMPREHENSIVE SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE LEGISLATION PASSES FULL SENATE

NASHVILLE – Tennessee workers are significantly closer to broad protection from the dangers of second-hand smoke thanks to the State Senate’s passage this afternoon of SB1325 – amended to establish comprehensive, statewide smoke-free workplaces.

“We are absolutely thrilled and thankful that the majority of our State Senators voted to proactively protect Tennessee workers by voting for a comprehensive solution to the smoke-free workplace issue,” said Smoke-Free Tennessee Campaign Director Chastity Mitchell. “Now we are looking to our State House members to do the right thing and pass a comprehensive companion to this bill, which will give Tennesseans the secondhand smoke protection we deserve.”

Smoke-free workplace advocates and supporters will now push for a similar comprehensive solution to make its way out of the House Agriculture Committee, which meets next Tuesday, May 29.

A recent independent poll released late 2006 by the American Cancer Society reported that 73 percent of Tennesseans desire to work in a smoke-free environment.

The U.S. Surgeon General reported last year that, ‘...secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance. It is a serious health hazard that can lead to disease and premature death in children and nonsmoking adults.’

It is estimated that 1,200 Tennesseans die each year from secondhand smoke exposure.

The Campaign for a Healthy and Responsible Tennessee (CHART) is the statewide coalition working to protect Tennesseans from the dangerous effects of tobacco through public education and grassroots mobilization.

Smoke-Free Tennessee is comprised of more than 20 partners including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the Tennessee Medical Association, the AFL-CIO, the Tennessee Public Health Association, Children’s Hospital Alliance of Tennessee and the Tennessee Primary Care Association dedicated to creating smoke-free workplaces for all Tennesseans. Learn more about the smoke-free campaign and Smoke-Free Tennessee at www.itsakiller.com.

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