



MEDIA ADVISORY
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TENNESSEANS SPEAK OUT IN SUPPORT OF SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE LEGISLATION

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Leading Tennesseans have voiced overwhelming support of Governor Bredesen's smoke-free workplace legislation.

Below is a sampling of statements on the issue.

"We applaud the governor for this extremely important step for the health of Tennesseans. We fully support this comprehensive smoke-free workplace bill as a way to protect the hearts of all people in Tennessee."

Nathan James
Advocacy Director, American Heart Association
Chair, Campaign for a Healthy and Responsible Tennessee

"Every worker has the right to breath smoke-free air. The Tennessee AFL-CIO applauds Governor Bredesen in his leadership to give Tennesseans a safe and healthy workplace."

Jerry Lee
President
Tennessee State AFL-CIO Labor Council

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“The Tennessee Restaurant Association believes whole heartedly in the Governor’s plan for smoke-free workplaces. As restaurateurs, we are glad to advocate for the health of our employees.”

Randy Rayburn, Nashville restaurateur
Legislative Committee
Tennessee Restaurant Association

"Going smoke free is about doing the right thing. The Rendezvous is one of the largest restaurants in Tennessee and we have been here for 60 years. We have been smoke free since Jan 2007 and the response has been very positive. No complaints. I applaud Governor Bredesen for his leadership in this effort to make all state workplaces smoke free."

John Vergos, owner
Rendezvous Restaurant

“The Tennessee Public Health Association commends Governor Bredesen on his leadership in pushing a comprehensive statewide ban on smoking in the workplace. As public health professionals, we know that this legislation will have a greater impact than any other single step the government can take to protect and promote the health of our citizens.”

Dr. David Brumley, President
Tennessee Public Health Association

“The Metropolitan Board of Health and Metro Public Health Department strongly applaud Governor Bredesen for proposing legislation that would make all Tennessee workplaces smoke-free. All citizens deserve to breathe smoke-free air while at work. Cities that have bans on workplace smoking have proven that decreasing exposure to secondhand smoke has a positive effect on the public’s health. It is time for Nashville and the rest of TN to join in and help make our communities the healthiest place for everyone.”

Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge, M.D., M.P.H.
Interim Chief Medical Director
Metro Public Health Department of Nashville/Davidson County

“Secondhand smoke is a major cause of lung disease and breathing impairment for Tennessee children and adults – fortunately, exposure to secondhand smoke is preventable. The American Lung Association of TN commends Governor Bredesen for his leadership on this issue and his commitment to make Tennessee smoke-free.”

Ed Harrison, President
American Lung Association of TN

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“The American Cancer Society applauds Governor Bredesen for his proposal to enact a smoke-free workplace law and increase the state tobacco tax. We strongly urge legislative support for these initiatives to help save lives in Tennessee. The American Cancer Society believes it is imperative to resist unnecessary compromises to these bills, which only serve to impair the positive impact on public health in Tennessee.”

John J. Chiaramonte, Jr.
Director of Government Relations-Tennessee
American Cancer Society

“We strongly commend Governor Bredesen for leading the charge this year to ban smoking in public places and to increase Tennessee's tobacco tax, measures which have dramatically improved the health of citizens of other states who have implemented these strategies. We are also grateful to the legislators and fellow advocates who have pushed so long and hard for these changes.”

Mary Nell Bryan
President
Children's Hospital Alliance of TN

“The Tennessee Primary Care Association is a membership association of community health centers that provide primary care to the working poor, the uninsured, TennCare patients, and Medicare patients in both rural and urban areas all across the state. We see patients on a daily basis that suffer with conditions caused by or related to the harmful effects of smoking. We applaud your leadership to make Tennessee smoke-free in 2007.”

Christi Granstaff
Health Policy Director
Tennessee Primary Care Association

“The March of Dimes Foundation, Tennessee Chapter thanks Governor Bredesen and our legislators for seeking to pass legislation that would benefit all Tennessee citizens. Banning public smoking and increasing the tobacco tax are proven methods for improving the health of communities, including that of pregnant women and children.”

Leslie Ladd
State Director
March of Dimes, Tennessee Chapter

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“Passage of the Governor's smoke-free workplace legislation is in the best interest of children across the state. The TN Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics commends the Governor for this bold proposal.”

Catherine M. Fenner, Executive Director
TN Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

“The Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians supports all initiatives to reduce tobacco use and the health risks of secondhand tobacco smoke exposure for our patients and all citizens of Tennessee.”

Charles A. Ball, M.D., President
Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians

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