



HB 2622 Testimony: Proponent

Sara Prem, director of advocacy for the American Lung Association

Oral: In Person

Madam chair and members of the committee my name is Sara Prem and I am the director of advocacy in Kansas for the American Lung Association.

We support HB 2622 to remove the exemption for the gaming floor from the Indoor Clean Air Act. Research supports smokefree casinos. They protect the health of employees and patrons; attract new business from casino players who prefer a nonsmoking environment; and don't rely on ventilation systems that simply don't clear the air of harmful toxins from secondhand smoke.

Casinos and other gaming establishments remain one of the few public places in Kansas where employees and patrons are likely to encounter secondhand smoke indoors at high levels. Creating a 100 percent smokefree workplace for workers is the only effective way to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and in Kansas. [Secondhand smoke](#) is a serious health hazard, causing or making worse many diseases and conditions, including lung cancer and asthma. According to the CDC, exposure to secondhand smoke causes an estimated 41,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. In Kansas, 4,400 deaths annually are due to smoking.

Though HB2622 does not address the section of the statute which defines smoking in the indoor clean air act (K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6109 (o)), the American Lung Association urges state statutes be strengthened by updating the definition of smoking to include electronic cigarettes, vape and other new and emerging tobacco products such as heated tobacco.

Last month, the American Lung Association released its 22nd annual State of Tobacco Control report which gives Kansas a B grade for our smokefree air policies. Passage of HB2622 creating smokefree casinos in our state and inclusion of e-cigarettes in the law would likely improve our grade next year.

Everyone has the right to breath smokefree air regardless of where they work.  
The American Lung Association urges this committee to vote yes on HB2622  
and make Kansas casinos smokefree.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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