



February 5, 2024

Representative Brenda Landwehr
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee

RE: HB 2622 / Letter of Support

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. Our mission is to "Advocate for evidence-based public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone." To that end, ACS CAN will continue to prioritize policies that help every Kansan prevent, find, treat and survive cancer.

ACS CAN supports protecting everyone's right to breathe clean smoke-free air including in all gaming facilities, but we recommend amendments be made to HB 2622 to add e-cigarettes and remove other exemptions.

Despite progress Kansas has made with regard to clean air policies, the workplace is still a major source of secondhand smoke exposure for adults. Kansas casino workers including bartenders, servers, and gaming establishment employees are not protected by our smoke-free law forced to breathe secondhand smoke even when smoke-free policies are in effect for other types of workplaces.^{i,ii} According to one study, prior to the implementation of a smoke-free law, employees working full-time in restaurants or bars that allowed indoor smoking were exposed to levels of air pollution 4.4 times higher than safe annual levels established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of their occupational exposure to tobacco smoke pollution.ⁱⁱⁱ

Smoke-free policies reduce long-term risk of lung cancer and cardiovascular disease among workers and patrons alike. Passage of a comprehensive smoke-free law is associated with lower rates of hospitalizations and death from heart attacks, heart disease, strokes, and respiratory diseases.^{iv} Smoke-free laws that cover a broader range of venues, including all workplaces, restaurants, bars, and gaming facilities, further reduce the risk of disease and death.^v

We ask for the committee's support for HB 2622; thank you for the consideration.

Megan Word
Government Relations Director, Kansas
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

ⁱ Shopland DR, Anderson CM, Burns DM, and Gerlach KK. Disparities in Smoke-Free Workplaces Among Food Service Workers. *JOEM* 2004; 46(4):347-356,

ⁱⁱ Trout D, Decker J, Mueller C, et al. Exposure of Casino Employees to Environmental Tobacco Smoke. *JOEM* 1998; 40(3): 270-276.

ⁱⁱⁱ Travers MJ and Vogl L. Air Quality Effect of the Kansas Indoor Clean Air Law. Roswell Park Cancer Institute. January 2011. Available at <http://www.tobaccofreekansas.org/site06/pdf/Kansas%20Air%20Quality%20Testing%20Report%202011.pdf>. Accessed June 6, 2011.

^{iv} Tan CE and Glantz SA. Association Between Smoke-free Legislation and Hospitalization for Cardiac, Cerebrovascular, and Respiratory Diseases. *Circulation* 2012; 126: 2177-2183.

^v Ibid.