



**KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
CARING FOR KANSANS

Testimony: HB 2622
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Feb. 5, 2024
Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2622 to amend the Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act. The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) represents nearly 2,000 family physicians, resident physicians and medical students across our state. Providing quality health care and good health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing more than 480,000 Americans each year, and the scientific evidence on the health risks associated with secondhand smoke is clear, convincing, and overwhelming. The U.S. Surgeon General has determined there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and sick and disabled veterans should not be subjected to secondhand smoke as they seek medical care. As a nation, we must do more to improve and protect the health of our veterans.

Cigarette smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals and compounds. Hundreds are toxic and at least 69 cause cancer. A December 2016 U.S. Surgeon General report found that e-cigarette aerosol is not harmless and can contain harmful and potentially harmful constituents, including nicotine." The only effective way to protect people from secondhand smoke and secondhand e-cigarette aerosol is to provide 100 percent smoke-free air. Designated smoking rooms, expensive ventilation systems and similar partial approaches do not protect people from the dangers of secondhand smoke or emissions.

Smoking bans or clean indoor air ordinances encourage people to quit smoking, support those who have quit by providing a smoke-free environment and protect others from secondhand smoke. California became the first state to enact a comprehensive statewide smoking ban in 1995 and has since been joined by 26 other states, including Kansas. We strongly encourage you to ass this amendment and strengthen the health of all Kansans.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit our comments.

About Kansas Academy of Family Physicians:

KAFP represents nearly 2,000 active, resident, student and life members across the state. Our member physicians are vibrant and trusted members of their communities and are dedicated to creating a healthier Kansas. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict our patients.