

March 2010

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition
E-Newsletter

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Regional

Clean Air Kansas City

Clean Air Lawrence

Clean Air Manhattan

Reno County Tobacco Free

Central Kansas Foundation (Salina)

Tobacco Free Wichita

State

KDHE Tobacco Use Prevention

TASK

Cancer Kansas

Clean Air Kansas

It's Everybody's Business

Kansas Association of Local Health
Departments

Kansas Public Health Association

Kansas Health Institute

National

CDC Tobacco & Health

Tobacco.Org

Americans for Non-Smokers Rights

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

Tobacco Control Network

American Cancer Society

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

National Cancer Institute

Congratulations, Kansas, on improving every breath we take!

Let the celebrations begin! The Kansas Legislature passed a clean indoor air law on Tuesday, February 25, with a vote of 68 to 54. Governor Parkinson has indicated he will sign the official document on March 12 at the State Capitol at 10: a.m., with ceremonial signings at 1:30 p.m. at KU Medical Center and at 3:30 p.m in Salina, the home of the first smokefree city ordinance in Kansas. Plan on joining in the celebration.

Beginning July 1, 2010, restaurants, bars, recreational areas, and workplaces in Kansas will be smoke-free. Kansas joins 27 other states and Washington, DC, that have passed legislation to protect patrons and workers from the deadly toxins in secondhand smoke.

While not perfect – the new law allows smoking in private clubs, tobacco shops and the gaming floors of state-owned casinos as well as race tracks – it is a victory for clean indoor air.

The state law allows local governments to have stricter regulations. For example, the state law would not preempt the ban on smoking in private clubs found in the recent Topeka ordinance, but the law will increase the secondhand smoke protections in a number of communities that had weaker ordinances.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority has estimated that a statewide indoor smoking ban could result in 2,160 fewer heart attacks and a \$21 million reduction in hospital charges for heart attacks alone.

Speaking of Topeka: The challenge of a portion of the city's ordinance is on-going. A Topeka bar that contains a smoke shop, divided from the bar area by duct tape on the floor, is testing the exception for tobacco shops in the ordinance by literally stepping over the line. The owner of a smoke shop within Hot Pockets, a local bar, has been cited for smoking by Topeka Police. A ruling on the matter should be announced shortly an administrative hearing officer. The city's legal department has said that a provision in the new state law may close the loophole being exploited by the defendant.

The mission of Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition is to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use among Kansans, particularly among children and youth, to improve health and to avoid the negative economic impact of tobacco use.

E-Newsletter

Legislative Report -- At the turnaround

We have reached the halfway point for the Kansas Legislature. A report on the status of other bills of interest to the Coalition is provided by Tracy Russell and appears at the end of this newsletter.

Push to raise tobacco taxes

This week puts advocates in front of the Senate Assessment and Taxation committee to promote a cigarette tax increase. The tax on other tobacco products, which has not changed since 1972, is also on the table. Governor Parkinson has proposed a 55 cent increase per pack of cigarettes to be coupled with a tobacco products tax increase that will go from 10 percent to 40 percent of the manufacturer's price for items like snus, spit tobacco, cigars, and pipe tobacco. SB 516 also includes a section that would put the tax for a pack of small cigars at the same rate as a pack of cigarettes.

However, a new study by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids argues that states could raise more than \$9 billion in new revenues if they all hiked cigarette taxes by \$1-a-pack. TFK says, the higher tax would keep 2.3 million kids from becoming smokers and convince 1.2 million adults to quit, saving one million lives and \$52 billion in health costs over the long-run. The study assumes that every state raises its tax by \$1-a-pack. And it recognizes that demand for cigarettes is relatively inelastic—even high taxes won't discourage many addicted smokers to quit. The paper assumes that a 10 percent tax increase would reduce overall consumption by about 4 percent, and youth smoking rates by 6.5 percent.

To see the report, go to Tobacco Taxes: A Win-Win for Cash-Strapped States at [http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/...](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/)

Within the past week, the state of Utah has passed a per pack cigarette tax increase of \$1.01, and the New Mexico legislature has moved its rate up by 75 cents.

Kansas' First Lady speaks out on secondhand smoke

First Lady Stacy Parkinson shared some PSAs with Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition members at the statewide meeting on January 24 in Topeka. The PSAs focus on the importance of restricting exposure to secondhand smoke

We are grateful to the First Lady for her commitment to make Kansas a healthier state by the adoption of clean air policies in public places and work sites in Kansas. You can view the PSAs at the links below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ9Jt4UfpB4>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xz4jCVYAWs>

The KU and K-State radio PSAs during basketball games coupled with the First Lady's television spots and the secondhand smoke materials from the Kansas Health Foundation have put the media spotlight on efforts to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and to keep youth tobacco free.

Cancer survivor shares story with Kansas youth about smokeless tobacco

Recognizing Threw the Chew Week, Gruen Von Behrens, an oral cancer survivor, took his message about the dangers of spit tobacco to students in northeast Kansas. From his early use to his subsequent surgeries, Von Behrens is determination to tell his story so that others understand the possible harm that smokeless tobacco can cause. During the first week of March, he spoke to students at Jefferson West High School and Middle School, Sabetha Middle School, Herington High School, Abilene High School, Royal Valley High School, Holton High School, Lawrence South Junior High School and Washburn Rural High School.



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Kick-Butts Day coming



Kick Butts Day is Wednesday, March 24. This year, it will concentrate on the three important public health initiatives:

1. Fully-funded state tobacco prevention and cessation programs.
2. Higher state tobacco taxes.
3. 100% smoke-free workplaces and public places.

Want to learn more? Check out the fact sheets on each of the three initiatives available at www.kickbuttsday.org.

IGNITE opportunity for youth in the Wichita area

ignite
youth conference

Wichita State University
presenting
2009 Teen Choice
"Do Something" Award winner &
MTV personality
Chad Bullock

04.01.2010

Youth Organizing
Tobacco Industry Manipulation
Media/Interview Skills
And learn how to take your movement to the NEXT LEVEL
Compete for prizes in The Amazing Race

save the date

2010 Legislation Update

SB 478 Taxation of Little Cigars Fails for Now

The Senate rejected SB 478 by a vote of 18-21 vote final action. The bill was approved by the Senate in earlier debate. The legislation would change the method of taxation for little cigars from a weight measurement to per pack tax like cigarettes. There may still be an opportunity to act on this issue as the legislature begins to consider revenue enhancements to close an increasing budget shortfall.

On the following page: bills of interest and status at Turnaround. (This list includes bills introduced in 2009.)

SB 25 Crimes and punishments; relating to smoking and cigarette sales. In House Health and Human Services

SB 81 Enacting the Kansas Nonsmoker Protection Act. In Senate Public Health and Welfare

SB 106 Cigarette lighters. In Senate Federal and State Affairs

SB 180 Kansas Cigarette and Tobacco Products Act; relating to certain unlawful acts; self-service displays. In Senate Public Health and Welfare

SB 216 S Kansas Cigarette and Tobacco Products Act; sale of cigarettes and tobacco products in violation of act. In Senate Judiciary

SB 327 Tobacco; relating to the master settlement agreement; creating the master settlement agreement compliance fund. In Senate Ways and Means

SB 342 Cigarette lighters; prohibiting the sale of novelty cigarette lighters. In House Federal and State Affairs

SB 412 Taxation upon certain tobacco products; relating to little cigars. In Senate Federal and State Affairs

SB 413 Taxation upon certain tobacco products; relating to moist snuff. In Senate Federal and State Affairs

SB 478 Kansas Cigarette and Tobacco Products Act; violations of act. Killed in Senate

SB 516 Taxation; relating to tax upon cigarettes and tobacco products, rates; rate of sales taxation, In Senate Assessment and Taxation

HB 2221 Crimes and punishments; relating to smoking and cigarette sales. Pending enrollment and presentation to Governor

HB 2268 Cigarette lighters; prohibiting the sale of novelty cigarette lighters. In House Judiciary

HB 2462 Taxation upon certain tobacco products; relating to moist snuff. In House Taxation

HB 2466 Taxation upon certain tobacco products; relating to little cigars. In House Taxation

HB 2569 Kansas Cigarette and Tobacco Products Act; violations of act, In House Taxation

HB 2642 Enacting the Kansas Nonsmoker Protection Act. In House Health and Human Services

HB 2643 Taxation upon cigarettes and tobacco products; relating to rates; little cigars. In House Taxation