

Sample Clean Indoor Air letters

Ban smoking in all public places

As a volunteer for XYZ, I feel it is important for me to respond to the recent article on the possibility of a smokefree regulation in XYZ County

I would like to urge the XYZ County Board of Commissioners to support the right of all XYZ County residents to breathe smokefree air in public places and work sites.

According to American Heart Association statistics, more than 250,000 Americans die prematurely each year from cardiovascular disease (CVD). Scientific research estimates that secondhand smoke is the second leading cause of preventable death in Michigan.

We know that an individual's risk of CVD increases approximately 30 percent when they are repeatedly exposed to secondhand smoke at their workplace.

I urge county commissioners to think about the health of our residents and support a regulation that would ban smoking in all public places.

Smoking Regulation makes business sense:

The XYZ County Board of Commissioners has recently been holding meetings on a possible smokefree worksites regulation. Passing such a regulation would be a plus for more than just the health of our residents, but a financial plus for businesses.

Reducing smoking rates among employees means fewer sick days and healthier, more productive workers. This also saves in long-term health care costs for employees and many insurance companies offer lower premiums for smokers.

When Ingham County passed their smokefree regulation recently, General Motors proved to be very supportive and adopted their own smokefree policy prior to the implementation of the regulation. The company realized it was the right decision to make.

Hopefully, our local commissioners will make the right decision as well.

The toll of secondhand smoke

As many as 2,510 Michigan residents die every year from secondhand smoke.

In any other situation where we knew that our residents were being killed at this rate we would do anything within our power to stop it.

Our county commissioners have an opportunity to do something in XYZ County to reduce this number. They are currently considering a regulation that would prohibit smoking in workplaces.

I encourage them to do what is right for the health and well-being of our residents and to enact this regulation.

Health effect of secondhand smoke (from an expert)-

Secondhand smoke is a major cause of chronic illness and disability such as emphysema, asthma, and respiratory infection.

Just as we expect workplace protection from other deadly toxins like asbestos, benzene, and lead, why should people not be given common sense workplace protection from this preventable cause of disease and death?

A recent study determined that even a half hour of exposure to secondhand smoke dramatically increases a person's short-term risk of heart attack. This is a result of the immediate effect secondhand smoke has on the cardiovascular system of nonsmokers. Other research shows that short-term secondhand smoke exposure "activates" blood platelets, making them sticky and starting the process of arteriosclerosis (blockage of the heart's arteries).

Nonsmokers regularly exposed to secondhand smoke suffer death rates 30 percent higher than that of unexposed nonsmokers.

Studies show that smokefree policies work. They protect the health of nonsmokers, who make up over 75 % of Michigan's population, and also benefit employers. Employees who work in smokefree environments are healthier, suffer less absenteeism, and file fewer workers' compensation claims. Employee turnover is less frequent, reducing the associated training costs. In addition, many insurance companies discount their fire, property, and health policy premiums for smokefree workplaces.

Hundreds of cities and counties across the country have enacted regulations protecting the working public from secondhand smoke. In Michigan, the City of Marquette and Ingham County have passed 100% smokefree ordinances for worksites and public places. Other counties are currently exploring the benefits of a health regulation.

XYZ needs a clean indoor air regulation -for the health of our citizens and to reduce exposure to the harms of secondhand smoke.

County Commission has an obligation to pass regulation:

Government officials have an obligation to their voters to protect their health and well-being. That is why XYZ County Commissioners need to pass a smokefree workplace regulation.

When officials discover that the lives of thousands of workers are at risk and there is something they can do to rid citizens of this risk, they must take the issue up and deal with it. Such is the case with secondhand smoke. Every day thousands of XYZ County employees enter workplaces where secondhand smoke impacts their health.

I urge commissioners to take the bull by the horn and pass a health regulation providing smokefree air in our worksites.

Congrats to those working to pass this

Thanks to everyone associated with trying to bring a smokefree workplace to XYZ County.

Laws have been put into place concerning certain noises (i.e. barking dogs, loud mufflers, pounding stereos) that are excessive, annoying and possibly harmful.

While it is not against the law if a dog barks, when there's a complaint about the dog's barking keeping someone awake at night, the authorities will step in and put a stop to the situation. I am not saying everything that is deemed annoying to someone should be outlawed, but certainly laws against annoyances and irritants -- such as secondhand smoke -- that are harmful to others should be enacted.

Non-smokers can't stop going to all public places that allow smoking and they shouldn't have to. Maybe if there were fewer places and opportunities to smoke, tobacco users could better realize the benefits of quitting and appreciate their new healthier, higher-quality life.