

Dear Editor:

It's time for North Carolina to pass a statewide smoking ban.

PARAGRAPH 2: Response to specifics in article and cite name and date of article/editorial. Example: *Your article on secondhand smoke ("Politicians debate smoke-free policies," January 1) failed to mention some important points...*

The adverse effects of secondhand smoke cannot be denied. An estimated 38,000 deaths each year are attributable to secondhand smoke, and more and more states are acting to protect their citizens from this entirely unnecessary health hazard. North Carolina should be no exception.

Smoky air in restaurants and other workplaces is not just a nuisance. Reports by the U.S. Surgeon General make it crystal clear that secondhand smoke is proven to cause lung cancer, heart disease, and serious respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis and asthma. Furthermore, there is no safe level of exposure, which means that simply have smoking and non-smoking sections will not protect non-smokers.

The evidence is clear, and public support is enthusiastic. I urge our lawmakers to act quickly to protect North Carolinians from secondhand smoke by passing smoke-free legislation during this session.

Sincerely,

Name
Number

Address