

Dear Editor:

PARAGRAPH 1: 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 some important points...*

Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in America, and it claims victims that don't even smoke. As many as 38,000 non-smokers die each year from diseases caused by exposure to secondhand smoke.

We know exactly what to do to protect non-smokers from the dangers of smoking, so why is it that North Carolina still allows citizens to be exposed to secondhand smoke in restaurants and workplaces when this can easily be avoided by enacting clean indoor air policies? Non-smokers have the right to breathe clean air, free from the toxins in cigarette smoke. Unfortunately, North Carolina law makes it difficult to exercise that right.

Despite the growing popularity of smoke-free laws across the country and around the world, North Carolina remains stuck with policies that are outdated, unhealthy and unfair to the vast majority of North Carolinians who do not smoke.

The U.S. Surgeon General has stated definitively that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. The only way to protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke is to require smoke-free workplaces and public places; nonsmoking sections do not work.

Our legislators can make significant progress toward improving the health of North Carolinians simply by passing smoke-free workplace legislation. I hope they do so without delay.

Sincerely,

Name
Number

Address