

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 to mention some important points...*

North Carolina’s legislators can achieve a significant victory for public health by passing smoke-free legislation this year.

Every year our policymakers fail to approve legislation to ban smoking in workplaces is one more year North Carolinians are needlessly exposed to the dangers of secondhand smoke, which is responsible for an estimated 38,000 deaths nationally each year.

Reports released by the U.S. Surgeon General leave no room for doubt about the effects of breathing air polluted by cigarette smoke. Secondhand smoke causes lung cancer, heart disease, serious respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis and asthma, low birth weight and sudden infant death syndrome.

Employees of businesses that permit smoking have no choice but to breathe toxic air for hours on end. North Carolinians should not risk their health in order to earn a paycheck or enjoy a night out in a restaurant or bar.

Polls show an overwhelming majority of voters support smoke-free workplaces, and duty demands public officials act to provide it. I strongly encourage the legislature to make clean indoor air legislation a priority this year.

Sincerely,

Name  
Number

Address

