



Legislative Update

May 25, 2006

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

General Assembly Convenes; Alliance works to Make Buildings Smoke-Free

The North Carolina General Assembly returned for its "short session" nearly three weeks ago. In that time, the members and partners of the NC Alliance for Health have worked diligently to speak with legislators about our efforts to make the General Assembly buildings smoke-free. We are working closely with Rep. Rick Glazier (D-Fayetteville) and Senator William Purcell (D-Scotland) to lay the groundwork in the House and Senate. We continue to be unsure of what path our efforts will take, though we expect some decisions to be made in the very near future.

As many of you know, the Alliance membership decided this past fall to make secondhand smoke issues the next major priority issue (following our efforts last session to raise NC's cigarette tax by 30 cents: the tax increased 25 cents on Sept 1, 2005 and will rise another 5 cents on July 1). And, we decided to start by attempting to make the General Assembly (GA) buildings smoke-free

In addition to our efforts to make the GA smoke-free, there have been two bills of interest introduced thus far this session:

H 2420 by Rep. Bruce Goforth (D-Buncombe) / S 1839 by Sen. Martin Nesbitt (D-Buncombe): An act to exempt community colleges from the law governing smoking restrictions and to appropriate funds to implement smoking restrictions.

H 2394 by Reps. James Langdon (R-Johnston) and Dewey Hill (D-Columbus): An Act to Delay the Implementation of Five Cent Increase in Cigarette Tax on July 1, 2006. The Alliance will watch this closely and let you know if there is movement on this bill.

What can you do to promote the secondhand smoke issue?

Have your organization, its board members, staff and volunteers sign the Alliance's secondhand smoke resolution to demonstrate your support for making NC's worksites and public places smoke-free. Access the resolution by going to the Alliance's website at:

www.ncallianceforhealth.org

The website is now capable to taking signatures directly on-line. Also available on our website are fact sheets, talking points and other resources on secondhand smoke and the cigarette tax. Please take a moment to check out our new and improved website!

**Stay tuned for further developments on efforts to make the General Assembly buildings
smoke-free!**

**For additional information about secondhand smoke issues or NC's cigarette tax,
access the Alliance website at www.ncallianceforhealth.org
for talking points and other resources.**

Call 919-463-8328
or e-mail ncalliance@heart.org for more information