



Legislative Update

June 14, 2006

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

**Senate Committee
Unanimously Approves HB 1133;
BILL COULD BE VOTED ON BY FULL SENATE AS
EARLY AS TOMMORROW!**

Today the Senate Health Care Committee *unanimously* approved a bill to make all areas of the General Assembly buildings smoke-free (HB 1133). A special thanks goes to Rep. Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland) for the excellent job he did introducing the bill and speaking in favor of making the General Assembly buildings 100% smoke-free. In addition, the Alliance thanks all members of the Senate Health Care Committee for their support of the bill, particularly the Committee Co-chairs Senators William Purcell (D-Scotland) and Stan Bingham (R- Davidson).

The bill now goes to the full Senate where it could be voted on as early as tomorrow. We have learned that there may be amendments proposed to limit smoking to legislators' offices. The Alliance opposes any amendments to HB 1133 that would result in anything less than a total smoking ban in the General Assembly buildings.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO CONTACT YOUR SENATOR BY PHONE OR EMAIL TODAY OR TOMORROW BEFORE NOON AND URGE THEIR SUPPORT OF HB 1133 WITH NO AMENDMENTS.

All senators can be reached by calling 919-733-4111 and asking for your senator by name. If you are not sure of the name of your senator, check the General Assembly's website at:

http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/GIS/Representation/Who_Represents_Me/Who_Represents_Me.html

Senators' email addresses may be accessed by going to:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/reports/room-phone.pl?Chamber=Senate&viewType=normal>

Some talking points to share with your senator about why should the General Assembly buildings be 100% smoke-free:

- **Because secondhand smoke is harmful to health and everyone has a right to breathe smoke-free air.**
- **Making the General Assembly buildings 100% smoke-free is an opportunity to protect children from the harms of secondhand smoke.** Of the thousands of visitors to the buildings each year, a large portion of them are school-aged children. In 2005, 46,232 middle school students visited the General Assembly and 1146 high school students served as General Assembly pages for a week at a time.
- **The General Assembly buildings are the place where our state's business gets done and must be open and available to all citizens, regardless of their health status.** We properly make the General Assembly buildings accessible for wheelchairs; it's time to make it accessible to asthmatics and others with serious lung ailments.
- House and Senate members made their chambers smoke-free in 2004 and 2005, respectively. The 500-600 legislative employees deserve the same protection.
- Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke have been shown to have many of the same tobacco-related diseases as active smokers. Secondhand smoke has been shown to increase nonsmokers' risk of heart disease, stroke, and cancer³.

Sample Email:

Dear Senator _____ ,

I am writing to urge you to support House Bill 1133 with no floor amendments. This legislation would ban smoking in the Legislative Building and the Legislative Office Building. Your support of HB 1133 in its unamended form will protect thousands of North Carolina citizens from the dangers of secondhand smoke. In 2005 alone, over 46,000 school children visited the General Assembly. Senators and Representatives have already protected themselves by voting to make the Senate and House chambers smoke-free. Please protect the rest of us by supporting HB 1133.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME)

(YOUR COUNTY NAME)

(YOUR EMAIL AND/OR PHONE NUMBER)

For a full set of talking points about the dangers of secondhand smoke, go to the Alliance website at: http://www.rtpnet.org/alliance/pdfs/general_assembly.pdf

**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