



Legislative Update and **ACTION ALERT**

June 19, 2006

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

Senate Approves HB 1133 on Third Reading; Bill Moves to the House

Contact Your House Member ASAP

On Monday evening, by a vote of 45 to 1, the full Senate gave final approval to HB 1133 to make all areas of the General Assembly buildings smoke-free.

The bill will now be sent to the House for concurrence where it could be considered as early as Wednesday. It is hoped that the Senate's approval of the bill by such a wide margin will give momentum to the issue on the House side. . . . which is why it is important that you contact your House member TODAY.

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE BY PHONE OR EMAIL ASAP
(NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON).**

**MESSAGE: URGE A "YES" VOTE TO CONCUR WITH HB 1133 TO MAKE THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS SMOKE-FREE.**

Some talking points to share with your representative about why the General Assembly buildings should 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 Representative _____ ,

I am writing to urge you to vote “yes” to concur with House Bill 1133. This legislation would ban smoking in the Legislative Building and the Legislative Office Building. Your support of HB 1133 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. The House and Senate chambers are already smoke-free. Please protect the rest of us from the dangers of secondhand smoke 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

How to Contact Your Representative

The Raleigh office phone numbers and email addresses for all House members are listed below. In addition, all House members can be reached by calling 919-733-4111 and asking for your representative by name.

If you are not sure of the name of your representative, check the General Assembly’s website at: http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/GIS/Representation/Who_Represents_Me/Who_Represents_Me.html

Member	Phone	Email
Rep. Alma Adams (D-Guilford)	919-733-5902	Almaa@ncleg.net
Rep. Martha B. Alexander (D-Mecklenburg)	919-733-5807	Marthaa@ncleg.net
Rep. Bernard Allen (D-Wake)	919-733-5772	Bernarda@ncleg.net
Rep. Lucy T. Allen (D-Franklin, Nash)	919-733-5860	Lucya@ncleg.net
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Rep. Jeff Barnhart (R-Cabarrus)	919-715-2009	jeffba@ncleg.net

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Rep. Thomas E. Wright (D-New Hanover, Pender)	919-733-5754	Tomw@ncleg.net
Rep. Douglas Y. Yongue (D-Hoke, Robeson, Scotland)	919-733-5821	Douglasy@ncleg.net

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