



Legislative Update

June 29, 2006

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

HB 1133 Unanimously Approved by House Health Committee

The hard work of Alliance members paid off today in dramatic fashion at the meeting of the House Health Committee. Even as legislators were convening for the committee meeting, it was not clear that HB 1133 would be heard. After some last minute discussion between the bill sponsor Rep. Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland) and Health Committee Chairman Thomas Wright (D-New Hanover), the committee meeting was called to order and HB 1133 was immediately called for discussion.

Rep. Glazier presented the bill and asked for questions from the Committee. Rep. Alma Adams (D-Guilford) made a strong statement in support of the bill and cited the new Surgeon General's report as further evidence of the need to pass this bill. She called for a concurrence vote and Rep. McAllister motioned for concurrence. The bill passed concurrence by unanimous voice vote.

The bill now goes to the full House for a concurrence vote. If the House votes to concur, the bill goes to the Governor for his signature. If the House votes not to concur, the bill will be sent to a conference committee with the Senate. We are hopeful this vote will take place before the General Assembly adjourns for the year.

**THE HOUSE CONCURRENCE VOTE IS THE FINAL HURDLE FOR HB 1133.
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR HOUSE MEMBER ONE MORE TIME AND
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
Rep. Cary D. Allred (R-Alamance)	919-733-5905	Carya@ncleg.net
Rep. David Almond (R-Union)	919-733-5908	davida@ncleg.net
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Rep. Michael H. Wray (D-Northampton, Vance, Warren)	919-733-5662	michaelw@ncleg.net
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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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