

Proposal 2007-3
Support for a Smoke-Free Nebraska

Subject

Smoke-Free Environment throughout Nebraska

Proposed by: Nebraska Nurses Association District III

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Type of Proposal: New Action Proposal

Rationale:

There is clear scientific evidence on the hazards of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. The evidence concludes that there is no way to ensure real health protection without making the entire indoor area 100% smoke-free. Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance, but a serious health hazard that causes premature death and disease in children and nonsmoking adults. Secondhand smoke contains more than 50 cancer-causing chemicals, and is itself a known human carcinogen. Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke inhale many of the same toxins as smokers. Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and increases risk for heart disease and lung cancer. In addition, infants and children are especially vulnerable to the poisons in secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is known to cause sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), respiratory problems, ear infections, and asthma attacks.

Unlike some public health hazards, secondhand smoke exposure is easily prevented; smoke-free indoor environments are proven, simple approaches that prevent exposure and harm. Only smoke-free environments afford full protection.

Recommendations:

The Nebraska Nurses Association shall:

1. Educate membership and the general public about the serious health hazards of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.
2. Work with the Nebraska Legislature to protect Nebraska Citizens from the health hazards of secondhand smoke with the passage of smoke-free indoor legislation.
3. Support those organizations and businesses that offer smoke-free environments as preferred service providers for NNA.

Past House Actions:

None

Relation to Mission and Vision Statements:

Directly relates to NNA's Mission and Vision by advocating for Nebraska citizens to improve the health standards for all.

Reference:

U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona, June 27, 2006; press release at www.tcsq.org/sfelp/health.htm.

Proposed Implementation Activities:

1. The Nebraska Nurses Association shall publish information regarding the public health hazards of secondhand smoke via the Nebraska Nurse and/or the NNA website.
2. The Nebraska Nurses Association Commission on Advocacy and Representation shall identify this legislation as a priority for the 2008 Legislative Platform.
3. The Nebraska Nurses Association and NNA District Associations shall support those organizations and businesses that offer smoke-free environments as preferred service providers.