

## Effective Smoke-free Laws

### What is an effective smoke-free law?

- ❖ An effective, or comprehensive, law protects all workers from exposure to secondhand smoke by covering all indoor workplaces and buildings open to the public.
- ❖ No one is left out.



### What are the dangers of not protecting everyone?

- ❖ Some smoke-free policies leave workers and patrons unprotected by exempting certain businesses and specific communities, or by creating exceptions for certain tobacco products like e-cigarettes. These are called partial laws.
- ❖ Laws that leave people or products out create confusion and enforcement challenges.
- ❖ Partial laws create an uneven playing field for businesses and the potential for legal challenges.

***“Having a partial law in Louisville was a nightmare to enforce. It caused confusion, led to lawsuits, and did not protect all workers.”*** – Dr. Troutman, former Director of the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness

### Why is it essential that a smoke-free law protect everyone from secondhand smoke?

- ❖ Smoke-free workplace laws with no exceptions are like a vaccine to prevent heart disease and cancer. A lower ‘dose’ for Kentucky will not improve population health, nor save healthcare dollars.
- ❖ Once smoke-free laws are passed, they ‘stick’ and are rarely strengthened so it is important to pass a law protecting all workers the first time.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ After Georgia passed a partial law that exempted bars and private smoking rooms, the number of restaurants and bars allowing smoking nearly doubled, putting more workers in danger.<sup>2</sup>

### What are the benefits of a smoke-free law that protects everyone?

- ❖ People with lung disease living in Kentucky communities with comprehensive smoke-free policies are 22% less likely to be hospitalized for COPD than those in places with partial or no laws.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ Those living in areas with a comprehensive smoke-free law are less likely to be hospitalized for serious heart problems than those with a partial law.<sup>4</sup>

**There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.<sup>5</sup>**  
**Everyone in our community deserves to be protected!**

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