



## Virginians for a Healthy Future – Smoke Free Air Campaign

### Resolution to Restrict Public Smoking to Improve the Health, Education & Welfare of Virginians

WHEREAS, Secondhand smoke kills at least 35,000 nationally and approximately 1,000 in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a 2006 report by the U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke and that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that an increased risk of acute myocardial infarction and coronary heart disease is associated with exposure to secondhand smoke and warned those with heart disease to avoid all indoor environments that permit smoking. Even after a half hour of exposure to secondhand smoke, nonsmokers' heart arteries showed a reduced ability to dilate, diminishing the ability of the heart to get life-giving blood; and

WHEREAS, Secondhand smoke is a risk factor for respiratory disease causing up to 1 million asthma attacks per year, 300,000 ear infections in children, 2,500 cases of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, negative effects on the fetus, and many additional negative health effects for young children including bronchitis and pneumonia; and

WHEREAS; Designated smoking sections do not eliminate nonsmokers exposure to secondhand smoke nor protect the employees of these establishments; and

WHEREAS; A recent air quality study found that air pollution in smoky restaurants, bars, bingo halls and bowling alleys was five times worse on average than air pollution found in the Hampton Roads Tunnel; and

WHEREAS; A 2008 Mellman Group poll indicated an overwhelming majority of Virginia voters (75%) support a law prohibiting smoking inside all workplaces, offices, bars and restaurants. In the same poll, 88% of voters agreed that all workers in Virginia should be protected from exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace, including 66% of voters who strongly agreed; and

WHEREAS, Smoke free air regulations are public health issues

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the undersigned organization endorses:

- The enactment of smoke free air legislation that will restrict smoking in all public indoor environments and workplaces; thereby, protecting all Virginians from further health risks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the undersigned organization will:

- Inform its members and, if possible, the general public of its endorsement of this Resolution; and,
- Inform the Governor and members of the Legislature of its endorsement of this Resolution, to the extent permitted by law, and urge its constituency to work for smoke free air.

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(date) (authorized signature)

Please return signed resolutions to:

**Virginians for a Healthy Future**

P.O. Box 3737

Glen Allen, VA 23058-3737

Fax: (804) 643-4490

Individuals and organizations completing this membership form may be listed on VFHF materials or used in connection with actions/policies approved by the coalition. Written requests for exceptions should be included with this form, or mailed to Virginians for a Healthy Future, P.O. Box 3737, Glen Allen, VA 23058-3737.