



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginians for a Healthy Future Expresses Support for Smoke-free Legislation

Virginians for a Healthy Future released the following statement commending Gov. Tim Kaine for his leadership in introducing legislation making Virginia restaurants smoke free:

“We applaud Governor Kaine for taking this important step in protecting the health of thousands of restaurant workers and customers in Virginia. No one should have to risk their health in order to earn a paycheck or enjoy a night out in a restaurant or bar. Governor Kaine's continued leadership on this public health issue is commendable.

“There is no longer any scientific doubt that secondhand smoke poses a serious threat to human health, and an overwhelming number of Virginia voters support smoke-free policies. Everyone has the right to breathe clean, smoke-free air.

"Virginians for a Healthy Future remains committed to advocating for comprehensive smoke-free legislation that protects all Virginians from secondhand smoke. This includes all public indoor workplaces, as well as restaurants and bars. We urge the General Assembly to make passing smoke-free legislation a priority this year."

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Virginians for a Healthy Future is a coalition of community organizations and individuals working to prevent and reduce death and disease caused by tobacco use. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in Virginia. Learn more about the health effects of secondhand smoke and the benefits of cleaning up our air by visiting our website at: www.smokefreevanow.org