

## Hoosier State Receives Failing Marks *Reform Needed to Protect Citizens from Tobacco*

An annual report by the American Lung Association's State of Tobacco Control handed Indiana failing marks in almost all categories this year. The report, which assigns grades determined by the progress of tobacco control policies and the protection of citizens from the dangers of tobacco, should be an eye-opener to lawmakers that Indiana has failed to enact laws that adequately protect Hoosiers.

Lindsay Grace, Manager of Advocacy for the American Lung Association, explains, "When states earn failing grades, the result is human tragedy. The report card clearly shows what Indiana can do to better protect its citizens from the dangers of secondhand smoke."



The report looks at four key areas. Of these Indiana received an "F" in three: tobacco control program funding, coverage of tobacco cessation treatments and services, and smokefree air. In the last category, cigarette tax, Indiana was awarded a "D" mark.

Currently a comprehensive smokefree air bill restricting smoking in numerous public locations is being heard in the Indiana Statehouse. Supporters of this bill believe that the proposed restrictions will lead to healthier work environments for many Hoosiers throughout the state.

Indiana is one of 26 states which have not yet passed comprehensive laws to protect the public and workers from the dangers of second-hand smoke.

