

Smokefree Victory in Vanderburgh County

As the dangers of secondhand smoke become more apparent to Hoosiers, an increasing number of Indiana's 92 counties are taking action to eliminate lighting up in public. Among these counties is Vanderburgh County, located in the southwestern corner of Indiana.

Last month, the Vanderburgh County Commission voted 2 to 1 to pass a comprehensive smokefree workplace law, taking effect July 1, which make all enclosed public workplaces smokefree. This law includes restaurants as well as bars located outside the city limits of Evansville.



Although this ordinance does not include the city of Evansville, members of the commission are hopeful that the ordinance will help to promote healthy air to not only the Evansville City Council, but also lawmakers at the Statehouse.

Martha Caine and Smokefree Communities of Vanderburgh County led the effort to protect workers.

Amanda Estridge, of the American Cancer Society, explains, "The passage of this ordinance sends a clear message to Indiana lawmakers that a statewide smokefree air bill needs to be passed that includes bars. They need to act this year to protect workers from the health hazards of secondhand smoke."

Currently, the statewide smokefree air bill is waiting to be taken up by the Senate Public Policy Committee. While amendments that exempt bars and taverns, casinos, fraternal clubs, and nursing homes were added to the bill while in the House of Representatives, the Indiana Campaign for Smokefree Air will be working to strengthen the bill moving forward.

To learn more about the Indiana statewide smokefree air bill, please visit www.smokefreeIN.com

