



Smoke Free Milwaukee Project

COLLABORATING AGENCIES

American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
American Lung Association of Wisconsin
Children's Health Alliance of WI
Fighting Back Inc.
G Communications
Hmong American Friendship Association
Hmong Education Association
Ignace Indian Health Clinic
Infant Death Center
Latino Health Organization
Milwaukee Area Health Education Center
Milwaukee Chapter - National Black Nurse's Association
Milwaukee Chapter - NAACP
Milwaukee Courier/WNOV Radio Station
Milwaukee Community Tobacco Coalition
Milwaukee Health Department
Milwaukee Public Schools – Safe and Drug Free Schools Program
Milwaukee Urban League
Praxis Project
Reach, Inc
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Shee Community Health Center
Sixteenth Street Community Health Center
Smoke Free Wisconsin
UW Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention
Wisconsin Baptist Pastors Conference

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MILWAUKEE PIVOTAL FOR GOVERNOR'S SMOKING BAN

Milwaukee—Members of the Smoke Free Milwaukee Project (SFMP) has agreed to support Governor Jim Doyle's anti-smoking proposal. The Chair of SFMP Elizabeth Smith said Milwaukee is pivotal to passing a statewide law banning smoking in all work places, public buildings, restaurants, and taverns.

“We commend the Governor for his proposal that would protect everyone from the harms of secondhand smoke and help reduce youth smoking. This is definitely a step in the right direction, and Milwaukee is ready to move forward,” Smith said.

The Governor's proposal would ban smoking in all public places, increase cigarette tax to \$1.25, and expand cessation programs. SFMP conducted an opinion poll that revealed over 60 percent of Milwaukeeans support smoke free work places. Also, the coalition has collected thousands of petitions.

Smith said a statewide ban would eliminate the argument that smokers will go to neighboring cities to light up, which is a major concern for many Milwaukee bar and tavern owners. “It makes sense to become champions of the Governor's efforts, and now is a good time,” she said.

SFMP is a coalition of tobacco control advocates formed in 2002 to address secondhand smoke as a public health issue. The coalition launched a city-wide public awareness campaign and with the support of Alderman Joe Davis proposed a city ordinance banning smoking in all public places. In March 2006 a public hearing was held on the proposed ordinance; the Public Safety Committee tabled the ordinance.

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