



# **Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care, Inc.**

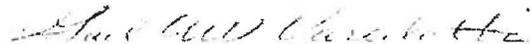
**Written Comments in Support of H.B. #682  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Health Committee Hearing  
June 15, 2015**

The Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care (PSRC) is the professional association for the 7,500 Respiratory Therapists licensed in the state of Pennsylvania. We have been a strong supporter of the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) and were pleased when it was signed into law back in 2008. However, we knew at that time that many exemptions existed in the law and looked forward to the day when those exemptions would be eliminated.

The PSRC believes that the adoption of HB #682 goes a long way in eliminating the existing exemptions in the CIAA and move towards a comprehensive smoking ban law in workplaces and public areas in Pennsylvania. As frontline health care workers, respiratory therapists see the damage smoking and second hand smoke does to a person's lungs every day. While we believe it is every person's right to decide whether they will smoke or not, we also strongly believe that people who choose NOT to smoke should not be subjected to the second hand smoke from another person's smoking.

Since 1964, there has been ever increasing evidence of the damage done by exposure to secondhand smoke. The "2014 Surgeon General's Report: The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress" provides an excellent review of the scientific research related to secondhand smoke. The report highlights the number of patients with lung cancer (263,000) and coronary heart disease (2,194,000) from 1965-2014 caused by exposure to secondhand smoke. In short, there is no risk-free level of exposure and we believe the current exemptions in the CIAA place the health of countless Pennsylvanians at risk!

The PSRC strongly supports the adoption of HB #682 that will eliminate many of the current exemptions in the CIAA.



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