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**Written Testimony on
Substitute for HB 2690
Concerning the Kansas indoor clean air act; relating to smoking on certain
premises**

**Before the
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**By
Richard Morrissey
Health Policy Section Chair
Kansas Public Health Association**

March 12, 2012

Chairman Brunk and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to share these written comments on behalf of the statewide membership of the Kansas Public Health Association in opposition to HB 2690.

The Kansas Clean Indoor Act is likely the most significant positive policy change affecting the health of all Kansans to occur since the advent of other fundamental public health measures such as clean water, sanitary waste disposal, and childhood immunizations. The evidence documenting the health threats of second hand smoke is overwhelming and not in dispute. The amendments to the Act in HB 2690 would significantly undermine the health benefits of the act by exposing all persons over 21 to the known health impacts of second hand smoke in many Kansas businesses that are now smoke free - a giant step backward for the health of Kansas citizens.

There is no public clamor asking for this backward step. Instead, there is now strong evidence that Kansans across the state support the act in its present form. A statewide poll conducted in January 2011 found that 77% of voters support the law with 62 % in strong support. The same poll found that majority support of the law is strong across the political spectrum and in all of the state's major media markets.

The Kansas Public health Association stands in strong support of the health benefits of maintaining the current coverage of the Clean Indoor Air Act for all of your constituents. We urge the committee to not report HB 2690 favorable for passage.

House Federal & State Affairs
Date: 3-12-12

Attachment # 15