



**KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CARING FOR KANSANS**

Testimony: House Bill 2340 Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

Feb. 2, 2012

By: Deborah S. Clements, MD, President

Chairman Brungardt and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 2340 on behalf of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFFP). KAFP represents over 1,560 practicing, resident and medical student members from across this great state of Kansas. The mission of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians is to promote access to and excellence in health care for all Kansans through education and advocacy for family physicians and their patients. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflicts our patients. We see the effects of smoking and of secondhand smoke in our practices every day.

We stand in support of HB 2340, which would remove the current exemption for smoking on the floor of state-owned casinos. Secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke. Exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer. Scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces fully protects nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke.

Scientific data clearly shows that secondhand smoke is a very real public health threat. The health effects of tobacco use and secondhand smoke are well-documented. And I know you've heard statistics before. As a family physician, the very sickest people I see in my clinic, the ER and our hospital are those who have damaged their lungs, hearts and blood vessels by smoking or by being exposed to secondhand smoke.

In conclusion, we urge you to vote yes on HB 2340. Clean Indoor Air is strongly supported in communities across the state and by the general public across Kansas. **Secondhand smoke is a public health issue, not just a nuisance.** Please oppose any legislation or provisions that would weaken the current Clean Indoor Air Act.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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