

**Resolution to Eliminate Smoking in All Indoor Public Places**  
*Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont*  
**Signed by VMS in February, 2003**

Based on the following facts:

- ?? Secondhand smoke is more than an annoyance, it is a killer. Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death and kills 53,000 non-smokers in the U.S. each year. It causes cancer, heart disease, strokes and many other illnesses. Secondhand smoke also exacerbates other medical conditions such as asthma, emphysema, heart failure and anemia.
- ?? In 1993 the Vermont Legislature enacted the Clean Indoor Air Act which prohibits smoking in most public places. However, Vermont's Clean Indoor Air Act fails to protect many Vermont workers. The Act includes an exemption for restaurants and bars that receive more than 50% of their revenues from alcohol sales and entertainment – the “Cabaret exemption”.
- ?? Bartenders working an 8-hour shift inhale the equivalent of ½ pack of cigarettes. They face a 50% greater risk of dying of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses than other workers. Waitressing is the most hazardous occupation for women. Compared to other female workers, waitresses are almost four times more likely to die from lung cancer.
- ?? Smoke-free policies result in healthier employees. Employers with smoke-free policies see a decreased absenteeism among non-smoking employees.
- ?? Ventilation systems cannot protect nonsmokers. Philip Morris has acknowledged that ventilation systems cannot eliminate health risks from secondhand smoke.
- ?? Smoke-free laws do not harm business. Scientific studies have shown that smoke-free ordinances do not affect restaurant and bar revenues. Vermont's passage of the Clean Indoor Air legislation in 1993 did not harm business.
- ?? Smoke-free policies will decrease costs for businesses and taxpayers. If strict smoking bans were implemented in all workplaces (including bars), the cost of treating illness associated with secondhand smoke would be reduced from \$9.2 billion to \$6.5 billion per year in the U.S.
- ?? Eliminating the Cabaret exemption in Vermont will save lives by protecting workers and patrons who are both smokers and non-smokers alike from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the undersigned organization endorses:

- Strengthening the 1993 Clean Indoor Air Act by eliminating the Cabaret License Exemption which allows smoking in bars and restaurants.

Additionally, the undersigned organization agrees to:

- Inform its members and, if possible, the general public of its endorsement of this Resolution; and
- Inform the Governor and members of the Legislature of its endorsement of this Resolution, to the extent permitted by law, and urge its constituency to do so; and
- Permit the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont to publicize this Resolution and its signers with the Vermont Legislature and general public.