

**SOUTHERN HEALTH ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE LOCAL COMMUNITY RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, Numerous studies have found that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of multiple diseases in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer; and is responsible for the early deaths of 53,000 Americans annually; and,

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is particularly hazardous to elderly people, children, individuals with cardiovascular disease, and individuals with respiratory problems, including asthmatics and those with obstructive airway disease, and,

WHEREAS, more than 1500 local governments throughout the country have successfully passed smokefree air laws to protect citizens from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry, in an effort to negate such local legislation, has developed as its chief legislative strategy the removal of local authority to regulate smoking; and,

WHEREAS, the State General Assembly should not deprive local governments the authority to protect people from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Southern health Association urges the States General Assembly to preserve the rights of local governments to enact and enforce tobacco-related laws by rejecting any legislation that may preempt these rights; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Affiliate States Governor, the Secretary of the Cabinet for Health Services, the Commissioner for the Department of Public health and members of the General assembly.

May 5, 2006

Ted Hanekamp, President
Southern Health Association

Date