

# **SOUTHERN HEALTH ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE**

**WHEREAS**, Numerous studies have found that secondhand tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, Secondhand Smoke is associated with approximately half of early childhood cases of asthma, chronic bronchitis, and wheezing (Pediatrics, February 1998); and,

**WHEREAS**, Secondhand tobacco smoke causes diseases in nonsmokers including lung cancer, (U.S. Surgeon General, 1986); and,

**WHEREAS**, Studies have shown that secondhand tobacco smoke is a cause of heart disease in nonsmokers; and,

**WHEREAS**, Studies have shown that breathing secondhand tobacco smoke is a significant health hazard to children, the elderly, individuals with heart disease, impaired respiratory function, and asthma; and,

**WHEREAS**, Policies that allow smoking in government buildings, public places and workplaces can discriminate against people with disabilities caused or worsened by exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke in violation of the 1990 American With Disabilities Act and 1973 Rehabilitation Act; and,

**WHEREAS**, Separating smokers from nonsmokers within the same airspace does not eliminate the exposure to nonsmokers to secondhand tobacco smoke (The U.S. Surgeon General.)

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, That the Southern Health Association endorses initiatives to: Eliminate any exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke in government buildings, public places, food service establishments, schools and workplaces; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SHA supports the authority of local communities to adopt clean indoor air laws and regulations.

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.

---

Ted Hanekamp, President  
Southern Health Association

---

May 5, 2006  
Date