

**SOUTHERN HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE SMOKE-FREE LOCATIONS**

**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**, smoke-free ordinance protects workers and patrons from the hazards of secondhand tobacco smoke and creates a level playing field for all businesses open to the public; and,

**WHEREAS**, Courts have ruled in April 2004 that government has the power to promote and safeguard public health, and that a smoke-free law is a reasonable public health regulation; and,

**WHEREAS**, every scientific study using objective measures (taxable sales receipts, employment levels, bankruptcy data, employment insurance claims) shows that smoke-free laws do not result in negative economic impact in the hospitality industry; and,

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the undersigned the Southern Health Association urges all local Governments to preserve the integrity of smoke-free ordinance and not weaken the law by exempting certain businesses; 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

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**Ted Hanekamp, President**  
**Southern Health Association**

**Date**