

**SOUTHERN HEALTH ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE
ADOPTION OF SMOKE-FREE ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, Toxic secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing at least 53,000 nonsmokers in this country each year; and

WHEREAS, Studies show toxic secondhand tobacco smoke is a major cause of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, Five minutes of exposure to secondhand smoke constricts the aorta as much as smoking one cigarette, making it more difficult for the heart to pump blood; and

WHEREAS, Twenty minutes of exposure to secondhand smoke has substantial, adverse effects on the heart, blood, and blood vessels, as much as smoking one pack of cigarettes a day; and

WHEREAS, Thirty minutes of breathing secondhand smoke compromises the ability of the blood to manage LDL (“bad”) cholesterol by depressing anti-oxidant defenses, thus increasing the risk of stroke and heart attack; and

WHEREAS, Studies show levels of toxic secondhand smoke in restaurants and bars are 1.6 to 6 times higher than in office workplaces, and waiters and waitresses have an increased risk of developing lung cancer and heart disease compared to other occupations; and

WHEREAS, Toxic secondhand smoke cannot be controlled to acceptable levels of health risk by ventilation, air cleaning, or simply separating smokers from nonsmokers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Southern Health Association endorses initiatives to adopt a local ordinance to completely eliminate smoking in places of public assembly, such as restaurants, bars and taverns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Southern Health Association supports the authority of local communities to adopt clean indoor air policies 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