



Center for
Tobacco Research and Intervention
University of Wisconsin Medical School

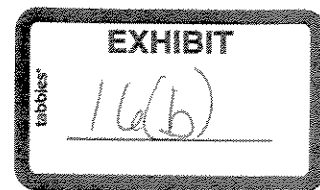
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Smoke-Free Environments Statement

The UW-CTRI, based on a substantial and unequivocal body of scientific evidence and endorsed by the Surgeon General, the National Academy of Medicine, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recognizes environmental tobacco smoke as a known significant health risk, responsible for illness and death from both cardiovascular disease and lung cancer. In addition to the reduction in environmental tobacco smoke, research evidence shows that smoke-free environments encourage and sustain the desire by employees who smoke to stop smoking, resulting in health and financial benefits for themselves and their families. As such, we support efforts to create safe and healthy environments for all Wisconsin residents including all employees. To achieve these safe and healthy environments mandates that all indoor environments, including all workplaces, be entirely smoke-free.

Michael C. Fiore, MD, MPH
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**Testimony Before the City of Milwaukee
Common Council Public Safety Committee
Thursday March 2, 2006**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Karen Ordinans, Executive Director of the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, an organization affiliated with Children's Hospital and Health System.

I am representing the WI Asthma Coalition speaking in favor of the proposed ordinance. The Coalition is a statewide group committed to improving the management and care for those with asthma. Asthma is a chronic disease that involves breathing problems. It's a disease that can't be cured --- only treated and managed.

Secondhand smoke is one of the worst triggers of asthma attacks. Asthma is the #1 cause of pediatric emergency room visits and hospital admissions at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. It is a leading cause of school absenteeism.

This debate has centered on adults having a choice to engage in an unhealthy behavior when they want and where they want. There has been little discussion, until today, about what smoking does to kids.

I am also here speaking for kids who often don't have a choice or any rights to be or not to be around smoke. They just know they want to be able to breathe clean air.

As policy makers, you are the stewards of this city's future, in that light I would hope you change this debate to what is in the best interest of the future adults of this city and that's the kids.

It may sound Pollyannaish or too idealistic -- but it's the right thing to do -- and you have the power to do it on the children's behalf.

I urge your support and Thank You.