



Legislature Ends Session Without Protecting Workers' Health Smoke-free legislation denied even a floor vote

March 13, 2008, Madison—The Wisconsin Legislature chose special interests over public health today by ending its legislative session without action on a statewide smoke-free law.

The Breathe Free Wisconsin Act, which would have ended smoking in all workplaces, including bars and restaurants, enjoyed broad public and bipartisan support and passed health committees in both houses, yet was not scheduled for a floor vote by leadership.

Because of this inaction, Wisconsin workers, especially hardworking wait staff and bartenders in taverns and restaurants, will continue to be at increased risk of lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema, and countless other serious illnesses.

While we are disappointed by the legislative leadership's seeming disregard for public health, popular opinion, and business interest to level the playing field, progress to protect workers from the dangers of secondhand smoke will continue in communities statewide.

We feel strongly that the will of the people, not Big Tobacco, will eventually prevail in Wisconsin as it has in 23 other states. The science is clear, the support unwavering, and the public knows *It's Time to Breathe Free*.

www.itstimewisconsin.org

###