



## Statement from SmokeFree Wisconsin, American Cancer Society Issued January 11, 2008

### **Senator Decker smoke-free workplace compromise legislation**

We are pleased that Senator Decker sees the importance of taking action to ensure Wisconsin does not become the ashtray of the Midwest. Today he announced what he referred to as a “compromise” proposal on the issue.

As the people’s advocate on this issue, we look forward to learning more about this proposal and making sure that it is a compromise aimed at protecting the health of our citizens. According to the US Surgeon General, the only way to protect people’s health is a smoke-free environment.

As we continue to work with a large and growing coalition of health professionals, business owners, tourism industry leaders and citizens from every corner of the state, it is clear that they do not want gimmicks, but a statewide policy that takes smoke out of public places. The law must cover *all* restaurants and bars if we’re to protect workers’ health and ensure a level playing field.

As momentum continues to build for a statewide smoke-free workplace policy, we are encouraged that earlier opponents of the effort are now listening to the public. We welcome the new debate focused not on *if* we need a smoke-free Wisconsin, but *when*.

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