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Statement of Governor Doyle in Support of Smokefree Legislation

Legislation to ban smoking in all public places across Wisconsin – S.B. 150, known as the Breathe Free Wisconsin Act – was introduced to the Legislature today by Senate President Fred Risser. In January, Governor Doyle called on the Legislature to pass a statewide smoking ban that is fair and equitable – banning smoking in all public buildings, workplaces, restaurants, and taverns.

Governor Jim Doyle made the following statement supporting the legislation:

“Throughout my career in public life, I’ve fought hard to protect our kids, and all citizens, from the ugliness of tobacco. Too many individuals and families have suffered terrible pain and losses, only to benefit big tobacco companies.

“We’ve made a lot of progress over the last few decades to make places like hospitals and office buildings smokefree, and get Joe Camel out of kids’ magazines. But too many of our kids are still lighting up for the first time, too many lives are being cut short, and the cost of treating tobacco-related illnesses continues to drive up health care costs for everyone, and put a squeeze on businesses and families across Wisconsin.

“Today, in 2007, we need to take the next step, continue moving in the right direction, and ban smoking from all public places in Wisconsin. Not only will this prevent more people from taking up smoking and help others quit – in the long term, it will help control the soaring costs of health care, and bring relief to all Wisconsin citizens.

“If so many other states can do it, and the entire country of Ireland, Wisconsin can surely be completely smokefree.”