



American Lung Association
of Connecticut
45 Ash Street
East Hartford, CT 06108-3272

Tel: 860-289-5401
Fax: 860-289-5405

lungct.org

1-800-LUNG USA

To: Members of the Public Health Committee
From: American Lung Association
Date: February 27, 2009
Re: HB 5608 An Act Concerning the Issuance of Liquor Permits to Casinos
That Permit Smoking in the Casion

My name is Margaret LaCroix, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, representing the American Lung Association's support for legislation that protects all workers in our state from the dangers of secondhand smoke. As a public health organization, we have always supported a total ban of smoking in the workplace. Our research has shown that ventilation systems do not effectively remove the toxins in the air produced by secondhand smoke. The only effective and evidence-based smokefree measure is to completely prohibit smoking in indoor public places and workplaces. In addition, the U.S. Surgeon General has warned that there are no safe levels of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Everyone deserves the right to breathe clean air. Every breath of secondhand smoke sends 69 known carcinogens and thousands of chemicals through your body. Smoke-filled casinos have up to 50 times more cancer-causing particles in the air than highways and city streets clogged with diesel trucks in rush hour traffic. Even casino workers in a "well-ventilated" casino had metabolized nicotine levels up to 600 percent higher than in other smoking workplaces during a work shift.

Casino workers, as well as other workers who are currently exempt from the smokefree air law passed in 2003, have a right to work in a safe and healthy environment. It is up to the General Assembly to take action to ensure that all Connecticut workers have that safe and healthy environment. It is good public health policy and we urge your support.

For more than 100 years, the American Lung Association and Lung Association affiliates throughout the United States have worked together in the fight against lung disease.

**CURES
CLEAN AIR
SMOKEFREE KIDS**

*Improving Life,
One Breath at a Time*

Community
Health Charities
New England
WORKING FOR A HEALTHY AMERICA