

## **Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians**

One Regency Drive  
P.O. Box 30  
Bloomfield, CT 06002  
Phone: 860-243-3977

### **Statement in Support of Senate Bill 884 – An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Private Clubs**

#### **Public Health Committee**

**February 9, 2011**

The Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians strongly supports Senate Bill 884 - An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Private Clubs and respectfully urges this committee to support this bill.

Senate Bill 884 would take the much-needed step of banning smoking in private clubs. As physicians, we are extremely concerned about the use of tobacco and the health risks that it poses. Every year, physicians must tell so many patients that they have lung cancer, emphysema, heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, and other illnesses caused by cigarette smoking. (Tobacco also contributes to the severity of strokes, colds and pneumonia, and in pregnant woman it increases the risk of miscarriages, preterm deliveries, and infant death.) This is devastating to our patients who many times cannot be cured of their disease. It is even more devastating to their husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and children who must watch the patient suffer through an agonizing illness only to lose their life.

The Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians has attempted to combat smoking through participation in the TarWars program. The program is presented voluntarily by members of the Academy to fifth grade children. While the TarWars

program has been helpful in protecting children from starting to smoke, it cannot prevent children and adults from being exposed to secondhand smoke. According to the American Lung Association, secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 chemicals and 200 poisons. Further, secondhand smoke has been classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a known cause of cancer in humans. The EPA further estimates that secondhand smoke is the cause of nearly 3,000 lung cancer deaths and 35,000 heart disease deaths in nonsmokers each year.

The list of dangers from smoking and from secondhand smoke are endless. We strongly urge this committee to pass Senate Bill 884 - An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Private Clubs.

**For more information, please call:  
Mark Schuman, Executive Vice President  
Melissa Dempsey, Director of Government Relations**

**(860) 243-3977**