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Statewide Smoking Ban Proposal Unveiled

Senator Dan Grossman (D-Denver) introduces the “Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act” to ban smoking in public indoor places throughout the state.

Get Involved

If you have comments about this proposed legislation, contact Colorado's General Assembly.

Find the names, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of your state senate and house representatives online at www.leg.state.co.us.

Comments may also be submitted by regular mail to:

[Senator or Rep. Name]
Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver CO 80203



MARCH 17, 2005 -- On March 16, Colorado political and business leaders met on the steps of the State Capitol to introduce a bill to ban smoking in public indoor places statewide, including offices, bars, restaurants, casinos, and any business with four or more employees.

The bipartisan “Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act” is sponsored by state senators Dan Grossman (D-Denver) and Jim Isgar (D-Hesperus), and co-sponsored by state representatives Gary Lindstrom (D-Breckenridge) and Mark Larson (R-Cortez). The bill aims to provide a uniform statewide standard for all businesses while protecting the health of citizens and employees.

“This legislation accomplishes the dual objectives of upholding the public health principle that indoor places where people congregate should be smoke-free, while also ensuring a level economic playing field for Colorado businesses,” said Senator Dan Grossman. “With the broad-based support demonstrated today from municipalities, the business community and numerous health advocacy organizations, we are optimistic this legislation will pass.”

In the absence of any statewide law, several Colorado cities and counties have already adopted strong public indoor smoking bans, including Alamosa, Arvada, Superior, Louisville, Boulder, Broomfield, Fort Collins, Breckenridge, Dillon, Frisco, Greeley, Pueblo, Silverthorne, Snowmass, and Summit County.

Secondhand Smoke

Information about the dangers and risks of secondhand smoke can be found on [Medline](#)

As part of a growing national trend, these cities have either banned smoking, or passed greater restrictions on smoking, in most indoor places, including restaurants and bars. Disparities in the laws between cities, however, can confuse people and create competitive disadvantages for businesses.

“I’m generally not an advocate of more regulation of businesses,” said Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, himself a Colorado restaurateur. “But, given the

[Plus](#), a public resource offered by the National Institutes of Health.

health problems created by secondhand smoke, it is only logical that this public health issue be addressed on a statewide level, thereby ensuring a level playing field for all businesses.”

Hickenlooper was joined by mayors and officials from other Colorado cities, as well as the Colorado Restaurant Association, whose board of directors voted to support this legislation.

Related Links

- [Colorado's General Assembly](#)
- [Colorado Governor Bill Owen's Office](#)
- [American Lung Association](#)
- [American Heart Association](#)
- [American Cancer Society](#)
- [Colorado Medical Society](#)
- [Colorado Tobacco Education and Prevention Alliance](#)
- [Colorado Public Interest Research Group](#)
- [Colorado Restaurant Association](#)
- [GASP of Colorado](#)
- [Denver Health Medical Center](#)
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Pete Meersman, president and CEO of the Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA), said, “While we still believe operators should be allowed to make their own decisions based on market demand, CRA has always advocated a uniform, statewide law over a patchwork of local ordinances which only confuse consumers and put affected establishments at a competitive disadvantage.”

Smoking bans have long been championed by health advocacy organizations, including Smoke Free Colorado, a statewide coalition of individuals, organizations and businesses working toward smoke-free indoor public places and workplaces.

“The Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A carcinogen, like asbestos,” said R. J. Ours, American Cancer Society director of government relations. “We encourage all Coloradans to let their state legislators know they support this legislation and look forward to the benefits of smoke-free environments throughout our state.”

The bill is expected to be introduced in the senate this week. Anyone interested in submitting comments regarding the legislation is encouraged to contact Colorado's legislative members, and a list of contacts is available at www.leg.state.co.us. For more information about the bill, contact the office for Senator Dan Grossman at 303-866-4852.

The smoking ban would not apply to private homes or vehicles, hired limousines, designated hotel or motel rooms, retail tobacco shops, or outdoor areas of businesses.

Early supporters of the legislation include the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the Colorado Medical Society, the Colorado Tobacco Education and Prevention Alliance (CTEPA), the Colorado Public Interest Research Group (CoPIRG), the Colorado Restaurant Association, the Group to Alleviate Smoking (GASP) of Colorado, Denver Health, the Denver Department of Environmental Health, and the National Jewish Medical and Research Center.

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-- Last updated on March 17, 2005