

## Smokefree Air Media Report – March 25, 2011

### Articles that quote coalition members or mention the coalition

The logo for INDYSTAR.COM, featuring the text "INDYSTAR.COM" in white on a black rectangular background.

#### Work of Health? It shouldn't be a choice

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110312/OPINION01/103120320/Work-health-shouldn-t-choice?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Opinion|s>

By: G. Marie Swanson

March 11, 2011

Circulation: 182,933

It has been more than half a century since American Cancer Society researchers established the link between smoking and lung cancer. In that time, we have learned that exposure to secondhand smoke can be just as deadly, and can cause lasting and irreversible damage to nonsmokers. As a result, communities, states and entire nations have enacted laws to protect their residents from the devastating health effects of secondhand smoke.

Despite being surrounded by smoke-free states such as Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin, Indiana lawmakers have thus far failed to enact a comprehensive smoke-free air law that would protect workers and patrons in all workplaces from the health effects of secondhand smoke. This inaction is nothing short of a public health tragedy.

Secondhand smoke has been found by hundreds of major peer-reviewed studies to be a health hazard, causing heart disease, lung cancer, heart attacks and respiratory illnesses, including asthma. These studies were conducted by multiple U.S. Surgeons General, the National Cancer Institute, the Institute of Medicine, the National Research Council, the Environmental Protection Agency, and numerous academic institutions.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids states that each year, more than 1,240 Indiana adult nonsmokers die from exposure to secondhand smoke. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, exposure to secondhand smoke for just 30 minutes can rapidly increase a person's risk for heart attack. Our fellow Hoosiers who work in gaming facilities, bars, restaurants and private clubs that allow smoking are the most vulnerable to these health risks.

At a price tag of \$390 million a year, each of us shoulders the burden of health-care costs directly resulting from secondhand smoke. Residents' state and federal tax burden from all smoking-caused government expenditures is \$566 per household. Both smoking and nonsmoking employees exposed to secondhand smoke at work take off more days than employees in smoke-free environments.

Secondhand smoke increases costly emergency room visits for chest pain and heart attack. Some of these costs are borne by taxpayers and insurance companies. According to a 2010 study conducted for Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, the country could save \$92 million in one year's worth of emergency room costs if each state implemented smoke-free air laws.

As a clear example of the positive impact smoke-free air could have on Indiana, we need look no further than Monroe County. In the months after enactment of smoke-free air in restaurants, retail spaces and workplaces, hospital admissions for heart attacks in nonsmokers dropped 70 percent. Smoke-free workplaces can save employers more than \$1,000 in medical expenditures for each nonsmoking employee and more than \$2,000 for each smoking employee.

For the past 20 years, we have seen 39 states take action, including passage of comprehensive smoke-free air laws in 23 states and the District of Columbia. It is time for Indiana to do the same. Along with our Indiana Campaign for Smoke-free Air partners, the American Cancer Society and its network of passionate volunteers will continue to advocate for a smoke-free Indiana where no workers are forced to choose between their health and their paycheck.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BIZnWW5VgalLpJimBCCNLQE8BX6L3YL2dJ5%2BrHP RbGwaG%2FemA%3D%3D>

March 12, 2011 6a.m. broadcast

Grace doesn't deny smoke-free Indy has an agenda. Any time we can push smoke-free establishments in Indianapolis, we will. Kilroys, the IU bar is one of the smoke-free places. I think it's been great for business. But the owner of the pub says he's not hurting either... As for fans here? I prefer the non-smoking. I'd just as soon do without; go outside, it's no big deal. I'm tolerant enough. It don't bother me one way or another. The bottom line is if you don't like smoke go to other bars...go Purdue!



## **Statewide smoking ban bill stalls in Statehouse - If Senate makes changes to the House bill, a House committee would need to re-examine the measure**

<http://newsandtribune.com/local/x814636614/Statewide-smoking-ban-bill-stalls-in-Statehouse>

By Maureen Hayden

March 14, 2011

INDIANAPOLIS — Legislation that would impose a statewide smoking ban is lingering in the Indiana Statehouse, stalled by a House Democrat walkout going into its fourth week.

The walkout has caused a series of complications for more than 100 pieces of legislation that passed through the House before the Feb. 22 walkout. In the case of the smoking ban bill, Senate supporters are holding up the bill for procedural reasons: The bill that passed through the House was peppered with exemptions that limited its scope. Any efforts to remove those exemptions, by amending the bill while it's in the Senate, would imperil the bill as long as the walkout continues.

“If we add an amendment now, the bill is dead if House Democrats don't return,” said state Sen. Ron Alting, a Republican from Lafayette who is sponsoring the bill and chairs the public policy committee to which it's been assigned for a hearing.

The reason? Any changes made by the Senate to the bill would require approval by a House conference committee. But as long as House Democrats remain out, there is no quorum to conduct House business — including conference committee work.

There is one way to save the bill: The Senate could pass it as is, with its current exemptions for casinos, bars, clubs and nursing homes, and send it Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels for his signature. Daniels has said he'd sign a statewide smoking ban into law if legislators approve it.

But the current bill has little support among smoking-ban advocates who favor the original language in the bill, which would have prohibited smoking in all public spaces and workplaces. They'd rather see the bill killed than live on as is.

“We don't want it to go to the governor's desk as it is now,” said Amanda Estridge, the Indiana government affairs manager for the American Cancer Society. “We don't want to see a bad bill

pass.”

This is the fourth year for the bill; it’s died in past years after the state Senate refused to hear the bill. Its supporters were hopeful that it would pass this year after the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and other business groups came out in support of it.

Twenty-seven states have comprehensive smoking bans. If a ban passed in Indiana, it could have significant affect. On Monday, Indiana University School of Medicine released a study that shows Indiana is a smoke-heavy state. It ranks fifth in the nation in the number of smokers over the age of 18.

The researchers also found Hoosiers are diagnosed with lung cancer at higher rates than the national average. According to the study, the incidence of lung cancer for black women in Indiana is 26 percent higher than the national average. For white men in Indiana, the incidence rate is 20 percent higher than the national average.

Ninety percent of lung cancer is linked to smoking and second-hand smoke, the researchers said.

“The numbers are devastating,” said Estridge. “The correlation is obvious. We’re one of the few states that hasn’t passed a smoke-free law and we’re one of top state in smoking rates.”

Estridge wants Alting to proceed with a hearing on the bill in the Senate in hopes that House Democrats will return and resume business. But Alting said he’s not sure if the Senate will support a comprehensive ban or if a conference committee would agree to a tougher ban than the House passed if it does.

“Do you want a feel-good bill that has a good chance of passing or do you want add amendments and risk it dying?” Alting said.



### **Brown returns to state to push for smoking ban**

[http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/article\\_b67becc4-ba8d-5687-86b2-f471ce692713.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/article_b67becc4-ba8d-5687-86b2-f471ce692713.html)

By: Kathleen Qulligan

March 14, 2011

Circulation: 83,877

GARY | A Northwest Indiana state representative sneaked back into the state Monday to hear his Illinois counterpart discuss her battle for approval of smoke-free legislation and to provide an update on his own smoking legislation efforts.

State Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, was temporarily back from his Statehouse walkout with other House Democrats for Monday's meeting of the Gary Chamber of Commerce, which featured Illinois state Rep. Karen Yarbrough, D-Maywood. Brown and other Democrats are staying at a hotel in Urbana, Ill., during the walkout in protest of some legislation spearheaded by House Republicans.

However, Brown said he may be back in the Hoosier state again when his bill, which would offer a statewide ban on smoking in public places, is scheduled to be heard in the Senate. He said Senate President Pro Tempore David Long, R-Fort Wayne, has told him there will be a hearing and a vote on the bill.

"That is a quantum leap from previous years," he said.

Yarbrough encouraged Brown to "do the right thing, and get the right law passed," as she talked about the multiple-year effort to get Illinois' smoke-free law, which went into effect Jan. 1, 2008, and bans smoking in all workplaces and public places including bars, restaurants and casinos. She said only about 25 percent of people in Illinois are smokers, but they were extremely vocal, and it was important to get the other 75 percent just as vocal.

"Our lives are worth it," said Yarbrough, who added what prompted her to get involved in smoking legislation was the knowledge that there is no safe level of secondhand smoke. "Money isn't everything ... A state shouldn't be in the business of killing its citizens."

After explaining the Democrat's philosophy for the walkout, Brown discussed his legislation, which passed the House with some exemptions in bars, casinos, private clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes.

Brown acknowledged that some of the chamber members might be opposed to the legislation he was pushing, but told the members they all pay taxes, and a bar employee who gets sick from working in a smoky environment likely doesn't have good health coverage, so it is their taxpayer dollars that would care for that individual.

Yarbrough likened the passage of smoking bans to the passage of seat belt laws, and said she knows old habits die hard. But she still hopes public smoking gets killed in the Hoosier state.

"I'm hoping it dies its death in Indiana like it did in Illinois," Yarbrough said.



## **All people deserve to work in smoke-free environment**

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110323/OPINION01/103230312/-1/7daysarchives/All-people-deserve-work-smoke-free-environment>

By: Fred Duncan

March 22, 2011

Circulation: 182,933

For more than 65 years, Little Red Door Cancer Agency has been serving people in Central Indiana who have cancer. During that time, much has been learned about cancer, including how to treat it, how to detect it early when chance of survival is greatest, and in some cases even how to prevent cancer altogether. The link between cancer and tobacco use is well documented. Cigarette smoking causes an estimated 443,000 deaths each year in the United States, nearly 50,000 due to exposure to secondhand smoke.

Little Red Door provides services free of charge to clients who are uninsured and underinsured and fall below 225 percent of the federal poverty level. Many of our clients are employed in part-time, low-paying jobs that do not offer medical insurance; they are janitors, busboys, waitresses, bartenders, dishwashers and hostesses. Many are subjected to working long hours in smoky environments due to the lack of a comprehensive smoke-free law in Indiana. One-third of cancer deaths are tied to tobacco. No one should have to choose between a job and good health. Now is the time for our legislators to adopt a statewide comprehensive smoke-free law that covers all workers.

Let's work together to prevent the devastation caused by tobacco and cancer. Learn more about our efforts by attending Little Red Door's "Unite 2 Fight: Get Moving 2 Beat Cancer" event on July 9 and logging on to [www.littlereddoor.org](http://www.littlereddoor.org).



## Future of statewide smoking ban “up in the air”

<http://www.wlfi.com/dpp/news/politics/future-of-statewide-smoking-ban-up-in-the-air>

By: Aaron Leedy

March 23, 2011

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (WLF1) - It's been widely debated for years. Now, it could be yet another year before a decision on a statewide smoking ban in Indiana is made.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Senate Committee on Public Policy heard three hours of testimony over a bill that would ban smoking in public places in Indiana.

Republican State Senator and chairman of that committee, Ron Alting, said this is the first time the bill has been heard in the Senate. The anti-smoking legislation has been a topic of discussion for years and has bi-partisan support.

The bill is authored by Democratic State Representative Charlie Brown from Gary. Alting said the bill passed out of the House five times, each time with different exemptions.

Alting said the anti-smoking bill does not have the votes to get it out of the Senate or House floors with no exemptions. He said if the Democratic lawmakers don't return from Illinois, the bill would die automatically.

"And, in five years in the House, they do not have the votes. In fact, we're in unprecedented times because any amendment that we add to the bill, if the House Democrats do not come back, the bill is dead automatically," said Alting.

Alting said basically lawmakers are down to two choices: Take the existing bill that exempts casinos, taverns and non-profit organizations like the V-F-W, or write the bill to have zero exemptions so every establishment is non-smoking.

Critics of the ban have long said it infringes on peoples' rights and could reduce revenue for some businesses. But, an [Indiana University study found similar legislation implemented in Fort Wayne didn't hurt business at an off-track betting venue.](#)

The committee will be making a decision whether or not a vote will be made on the bill next Wednesday, or to let it simply die in its present form. If that happens, the bill will be revisited next year.

Governor Mitch Daniels said last December he would sign a statewide smoking ban if lawmakers approved restrictions on indoor smoking in public places.



## State smoking ban hearing focuses on exemptions

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/mar/23/smoking-ban-hearing-focuses-on-exemptions/>

By: Eric Bradner

March 23, 2011

Circulation: 52,721

INDIANAPOLIS — Alice Curry, 66, an elementary and high school music teacher from Columbus, Ind., inhaled secondhand smoke in the teachers lounges at schools where she taught, and later from co-workers at a Xerox shop where she was later employed.

But Curry told an Indiana Senate committee on Wednesday that she never puffed a single cigarette of her own. She thinks the secondhand smoke she encountered on her jobs may have led to her diagnosis in August 2009 with Stage 4 lung cancer.

The retiree begged members of the Senate committee to enact a statewide smoking ban.

"Every person working and living in Indiana needs your help, or they're going to end up fighting the battle that I'm fighting right now," she said, briefly pausing to wipe away tears.

"Every worker in Indiana should have the ability to work in a job that doesn't make them sick or, worse, kill them — especially when we know how to avoid it."

It was an emotional moment in a hearing that focused mostly on just what exemptions ought to be carved out of [House Bill 1018](#), authored by Rep. Charlie Brown, a Democrat from Gary.

### Documents

- [House Bill 1018 - Smoking Ban in Public Places](#)

Senate Public Policy Committee Chairman Ron Alting, a Lafayette Republican, said the bill can't pass unless it includes exemptions such as the ones contained in the version that cleared the House earlier this year, for casinos, bars, private clubs and nursing homes.



"When I got elected 13 years ago, the advocates that want all or nothing are still here 13 years later with nothing," Alting said.

The committee did not vote, and Alting said he will decide later this week whether a vote should be held.

Brown said he hopes some exemptions will be stricken from the bill. But that could complicate its final passage, too.

If a single word is changed, the bill would have to go back to the House for a concurrence vote. That vote couldn't happen, though, unless Democrats end their boycott and return from Illinois, where they've been holed up in protest since Feb. 22.



### **Proposed statewide smoking ban in peril**

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/gary/article\\_42e6e5e6-b98a-5b6c-872f-2c775de84e81.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/gary/article_42e6e5e6-b98a-5b6c-872f-2c775de84e81.html)

By: Dan Carden

March 23, 2011

Circulation: 83,877

INDIANAPOLIS | A House-approved statewide indoor smoking ban may not get a Senate committee vote if supporters cannot agree on whether they can accept limited exemptions.

On Wednesday, the Senate Public Policy Committee heard three hours of public testimony on House Bill 1018, sponsored by state Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary. That measure exempts casinos, bars, tobacco shops and nursing homes from the proposed smoking ban.

But representatives of anti-smoking groups and some committee members said the legislation should be a total ban on all indoor smoking. At the same time, other lawmakers proposed additional exemptions to include charity bingo sites and restaurant patios.

State Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, chairman of the committee, said if lawmakers cannot agree on whether to have exemptions and what they should be, he likely won't allow a committee vote on the legislation. Without committee approval the measure cannot advance to the full Senate.

"There's a lot of people that want all-or-nothing and if that's the case it probably won't go anywhere because I don't think they have the support for a total ban," Alting said. "When I got elected 13 years ago, the advocates that want all-or-nothing are still here 13 years later with nothing."

Alting said he's inclined to send the legislation to the full Senate without any changes because any change would require the legislation to go back for approval to the Indiana House, where action is stalled because of the Democrats' walkout.

Brown, who wants the exemption for bars removed from the proposal, said he's confident House Democrats will return before the mandatory adjournment date of April 29, allowing a House-Senate conference committee to work out differences in separately passed bills.

This is the first time in five years that Senate President David Long, R-Fort Wayne, has allowed a Senate committee hearing on a House-approved smoking ban proposal.



## Smoking ban debate revolves around exceptions

<http://www.wibc.com/news/Story.aspx?ID=1390067>

By: Eric Berman

March 23, 2011

In January, the House passed a bill exempting bars, casinos, nursing homes and tobacco shops.

Alice Curry of Columbus is a lifelong nonsmoker who's been fighting Stage Four lung cancer for a year-and-a-half. She urged senators to make the ban comprehensive for the sake of Hoosiers' health.

"You know the dangers of secondhand smoke," Curry told Public Policy Committee members. "By not passing the comprehensive clean-air bill, you are giving me and thousands of other Hoosiers an early death sentence."

But bar owners argue they'll lose business if they have to go smoke-free, especially if they have to compete with casinos or clubs that don't. Nursing homes say that while five out of six facilities in Indiana are already smoke-free or moving toward it, others view a separate smoking area as an essential part of keeping residents who smoke happy with their surroundings.

And casinos can point to a state study calculating their attendance would fall off by five-to-10-percent if a ban passes.

Committee Chairman Ron Alting (R-Lafayette) put off a vote in part to see whether House Democrats will return next week -- if they never come back, any changes to the bill would kill it.

Both Alting and the bill's authors, Reps. Charlie Brown (D-Gary) and Eric Turner (R-Marion), acknowledge they're also trying to get a sense of whether a blanket ban would have the votes to pass. Both Brown and Turner say they're prepared to settle for as much as they can get, but would prefer a bill that's exemption-free.



## Senate Panel to Consider Smoking Ban

<http://www.wibc.com/news/Story.aspx?ID=1389375>

By: Eric Berman

March 23, 2011

A House vote in January marked the fifth time the chamber has approved a smoking ban, but this is the first time the Senate has allowed a hearing on it. Public Policy Committee Chairman Ron Alting (R-Lafayette) notes getting a ban through the House has almost always required exemptions for bars and casinos, and predicts the same will be true in the Senate.

"Casinos are the third-highest generator of income to the state of Indiana, and as much as you'd like to say, 'Well, Senator, that just shouldn't play any part in it' -- well, it does," Alting says. "Unfortunately, it just does."

A study by the legislature's nonpartisan research arm concluded a smoking ban would cost Indiana casinos 5 to 10 percent of their business. That could cost the state as much as \$380 million in gaming taxes over the next two years.

Amanda Estridge with the Indiana Campaign for Smoke-Free Air says the issue should be protecting workers from secondhand smoke, regardless of where their workplace is. She claims she has the votes -- she says a majority of the committee's 10 members have told her group they support a blanket ban.

Alting says passing any bill could be complicated because the sides don't break down neatly -- some senators oppose any ban on libertarian grounds, while some supporters object to one that carves out too many exceptions.

39 states have some form of statewide smoking ban. The American Nonsmokers Rights Foundation says 23 of them require bars, restaurants and workplaces to be smoke-free, although some of those 23 do exempt casinos. The bill which passed the House exempts not only bars and casinos, but smoke shops, nursing homes, veterans' homes and private clubs.



## **Indiana smoking ban advocates push cause at New Albany Event**

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110324/NEWS02/303240078/1001/Indiana-smoking-ban-advocates-push-cause-New-Albany-event?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Home|s>

By: Harold Adams

March 24, 2011

With a proposed statewide smoking ban awaiting state Senate action, a group of ban advocates met Thursday in New Albany for a panel presentation on their cause.

The event, billed as a town hall meeting, featured five panelists and moderator Karla Sneegas, executive director of the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency. All were ban supporters, and the gathering was hosted at Cancer Care Center by Floyd County Tobacco Prevention and Cessation.

Panelist Lindsay Grace of the American Lung Association said Indiana is “the ashtray of the Midwest.”

“We really are becoming surrounded by smoke-free states and cities,” Grace said, including Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa, along with Louisville and Lexington in Kentucky.

Nationally, depending on whose count you use, she said, 23 to 29 states covering 63 percent of the U.S. population have workplace smoking bans that do not allow for exceptions or designated smoking areas.

There are 12 local smoke-free areas in Indiana such as Bloomington, West Lafayette and Elkhart that cover 8.7 percent of the state’s population, Grace said. Closer to home, Jeffersonville has a public smoking ban while proposed bans have been defeated in New Albany and Clarksville.

The statewide proposal in Indiana, House Bill 1018, contains exceptions for such places as bars, casinos, private clubs and horse racing facilities. Unlike previous bans passed by the House, this one “for the first time ever” received a hearing Wednesday in the Senate Public Policy Committee, Grace said.

She said a committee vote is expected next Wednesday.

The American Lung Association and other ban advocates oppose the exceptions in the bill, Grace said, “so it is our hope that we get it cleaned up and put bars and taverns back in and tighten up some other language.”

The usual ban advocates have been joined by One Southern Indiana, the chamber of commerce for Floyd and Clark counties.

One Southern Indiana Chairman Kevin Hammersmith said the organization supports a statewide smoking ban “in recognition of the message that it sends that Indiana values the health of its citizens.”

He said the organization feels “that there’s a direct correlation between no smoking and companies that look to come to Indiana for their workers.”

## **General Smokefree Air Articles**



### **State should go smoke-free**

<http://www.ibj.com/state-should-go-smokefree/PARAMS/article/25857>

By: Susan Rawl

March 12, 2011

Circulation: 17,000

Less than a month ago, it seemed almost certain that Indiana would join the ranks of two dozen other states and the District of Columbia—including our neighbors Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin—in enacting a statewide, comprehensive smoke-free-air law.

It now appears that some lawmakers have been unwittingly influenced by opponents of smoke-free air and have succeeded in weakening House Bill 1018 to exempt bars, nursing homes, private clubs and casinos from protecting their employees from the devastating effects of secondhand smoke.

While the health effects of secondhand smoke are well-documented and can no longer be

contested, opponents of smoke-free air are clinging to the waning hope that lawmakers will be convinced smoke-free air is bad for business. However, they couldn't be more mistaken.

Numerous studies conducted by some of the nation's top academic institutions and reports from state agencies have consistently shown that smoke-free-air laws do not harm business. One year after the state of Washington went smoke-free, bar and tavern revenue was up 20 percent. Minnesota, Massachusetts, New York and Florida, just to name a few, saw no significant impact in revenue, and employment in the hospitality industry was not affected.

Here in Indiana, communities that have adopted smoke-free-air ordinances have seen almost immediate benefits to the clear air. According to the Indiana Center for Health Policy, one month after Fort Wayne expanded its smoke-free ordinance to include bars and private clubs, bar and restaurant receipts increased 39 percent. Since Plainfield went smoke-free in 2006, the amount of money collected from food and beverage taxes continues to increase.

Perhaps the most convincing bit of evidence that shows smoke-free laws do not harm business can be found in a Michigan Department of Treasury report released in December. In the months following enactment of Michigan's smoke-free-air law, a comparison of year-over-year sales tax receipts showed that there was actually an overall increase of 0.11 percent in total sales tax collections from retail eating and drinking establishments.

This is particularly interesting when one takes into account that Michigan's economy has been arguably the most affected by the recession, and Michigan was the only state to lose population, according to the 2010 census.

The next few weeks will be critical to the fate of the smoke-free-air legislation. Advocates of smoke-free air include some of the state's most influential health care and business organizations. With more than \$390 million spent each year on secondhand-smoke-related health care costs in Indiana, the Hoosier state simply can't afford not to go smoke-free.



**Editorial: Indianapolis doesn't need 'ashtray' label**

<http://www.ibj.com/editorial-indianapolis-doesnt-need-ashtray-label/PARAMS/article/25849>

March 12, 2011

Circulation: 17,000

The Circle City has finally outgrown its sleepy Naptown reputation, but Indianapolis is at risk of developing another rep that won't exactly look good on postcards: Ashtray of the Midwest.

As Scott Olson reported in a [March 9 story](#) on IBJ.com, some Michigan State University alumni were upset—including at least two people employed by the American Cancer Society—that their alma mater was paired with an Indianapolis bar that allows smoking during the Big Ten men's basketball tournament.

Schools traditionally have been matched with downtown establishments so visitors have a home base of sorts where like-minded fans can gather while they're in town. This year, three of the venues allow smoking—despite comprehensive smoking bans in the states where their university “partners” are located.

In fact, only two of the eight states with Big Ten schools do not prohibit smoking in all public places: Indiana and Pennsylvania.

Indianapolis has a partial ban on smoking in public places, but it is riddled with exceptions—including bars. An effort to strengthen the law failed, though Democrats on the City-County Council hope to try again.

State legislators, meanwhile, are weighing a similarly weak measure that passed the Indiana House in January after bars, taverns, casinos and private clubs were carved out. It has been assigned to a Senate committee.

Nationwide, 27 states have comprehensive smoking bans in place, and for good reason. Protecting the health of workers is simply more important than preserving the ability to light up with a lager.

Indiana should be among the states that realize that—no ifs, ands or but(t)s about it—and Indianapolis needs to be leading the charge, not fighting it.

More non-Hoosiers are starting to see Indianapolis in a new light: as a Super Bowl city with cultural offerings to balance out the decades-long sports focus and enough potential to attract public and private investment in the future.

Boosters want to keep building on the city's progress, educating visitors and residents alike about all that Indiana has to offer. But we're running the risk of losing our shine in a cloud of smoke.

This is not a new topic for us. We have used this space to advocate—if not plead—for a

comprehensive smoking ban for years. The time has come for state and local lawmakers alike to stop ignoring the health risks associated with secondhand smoke in an effort to keep some businesses happy.

Those downtown “headquarters” for Big Ten fans? Eight of them don’t allow smoking. And still the beer flows and patrons pour in to celebrate or mourn their teams’ fate.

Despite claims to the contrary, bars will survive. Casinos will endure. Fraternal organizations may even stumble on a way to attract younger, health-conscious members. And if we’re lucky, a few more of us will live long enough to see Indianapolis live up to its potential.



### **IU Study: Smoking ban doesn’t harm gambling venues**

<http://www.wthr.com/story/14303805/iu-study-smoking-ban-doesnt-harm-gambling-venues>

March 23, 2011

Bloomington - Researchers say there is no economic incentive for lawmakers to exclude off-track betting facilities from a smoking ban considered in the Indiana Legislature.

An Indiana University study found that similar legislation implemented in Fort Wayne didn't hurt business at its OTB venue. The study looked at the amount gamblers spent at three OTB venues from 2002 to 2009. The facilities included the smoke-free one in Fort Wayne and two venues that allow smoking in Indianapolis and Merrillville.

Research showed per capita spending declined at a similar rate for all three venues.

Lead author of the study Jon Macy said past studies have said smoke-free laws don't have a negative effect on businesses but the IU study is one of the first to demonstrate such laws don't hurt gaming venues either.





## **IU study shows smoking ban doesn't hurt gambling business**

**A new study out of Indiana University shows there is no economic incentive for lawmakers to exclude gambling facilities from a smoking ban.**

<http://www.fox59.com/news/wxin-indiana-smoking-ban-iu-study-shows-casinos-dont-lose-business-from-smoking-ban-20110323,0,5622929.story>

March 23, 2011

Bloomington, Ind.—

A new study out of Indiana University shows there is no economic incentive for lawmakers to exclude gambling facilities from a smoking ban. The authors of the study looked at similar legislation enacted in Fort Wayne and found that businesses there didn't seem to suffer.

The IU study is one of the first to demonstrate that such laws don't hurt gaming venues.



## **Loopholes in proposed Indiana smoking ban questioned**

<http://www.wave3.com/story/14310198/loopholes-in-proposed-indiana-smoking-ban-questioned>

By: Megan Kean

March 23, 2011

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (WAVE) - A proposed statewide smoking ban was the focus of a March 23 Indiana Senate committee meeting in Indianapolis.

The ban would allow exemptions for casinos, bars, and even nursing homes. The Senate Public Policy Committee could decide if so many loopholes belong to the law.

Health advocates say a comprehensive ban would protect all workers. However, critics worry about casinos and bars losing business.



## Senate Panel Hears Testimony on Indiana Smoking Ban

<http://www.wfpl.org/2011/03/23/senate-panel-hears-testimony-on-indiana-smoking-ban/>

By: Rick Howlett

March 23, 2011

An Indiana Senate committee heard testimony on a proposed statewide smoking ban that includes exemptions for casinos, bars and long-term care facilities such as nursing homes.

Alice Curry of Columbus urged the Senate Public Policy Committee to remove the exemptions to protect workers from second-hand smoke.

Curry is battling lung cancer. She never smoked but suspects her illness was caused by years of exposure to smoke in the workplace.

“By not passing a comprehensive clean air bill, you are giving me and thousands of other Hoosiers an early death sentence. I want you to stop that,” she said.

Bar owners and the casino industry say a comprehensive ban would hurt business. Long term care facility operators want their residents to be able to smoke in designated areas.

The committee will re-visit the measure next week. Some lawmakers say a smoking bill won't win approval without exemptions.



## Senate to Hold Smoking Ban Hearing

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=46799>

March 23, 2011

Senate Public Policy Committee Chairman Ron Alting (R-22) tells our partners at Network Indiana/WIBC that it's doubtful a ban can pass without exceptions.

The Indiana Senate is scheduled to hold its first-ever hearing on a statewide smoking ban today. Legislation passed by the House in January will be taken up by the Senate's Public Policy Committee. The hearing follows the release of a study by researchers at Indiana University suggesting a smoke free regulation in Fort Wayne did not hurt business at an off-track betting facility.



### **Study: Smoking ban didn't hurt businesses**

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110324/LOCAL/103240453/Study-Smoking-ban-didn-t-hurt-business?odysey=tab|topnews|text|Communities>

March 24, 2011

Circulation: 182,933

A smoking ban did not cut into business at an Indiana off-track betting facility, an Indiana University study found.

Prohibiting tobacco had no impact on how much gamblers spent per number of people living in the county, the online study published Tuesday in "Tobacco Control" reported.

Unemployment rates proved a much stronger predictor of how much people spent at OTBs in Fort Wayne, Indianapolis and Merrillville, the study found. When unemployment increased, OTB spending decreased. That held true for the Fort Wayne location, where a tobacco ban was imposed, as well as for Indianapolis and Merrillville, where no such ban existed.

The news come as the Indiana legislature considers passing a version of a smoke-free workplace law. The House earlier this session passed a smokefree bill that excluded gambling facilities and bars; the bill is still under consideration in the Senate.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BIznWWEjiMTvvcYGH%2FUUz6PE0%2FEVM91xoZ9omgknLONmJ%2FcyVoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

March 24, 2011

8:00a.m. broadcast

A senate committee will vote next week in a statewide smoking ban whether to modify a list of exemptions currently in the bill. The house passed a bill exempting large casinos, nursing homes and tobacco shops.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BIznWWEjiMTvvcYGH%2FUUz6PE0%2FETpctTZ%2B6wof8sfOnEzbploIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

March 24, 2011

9:00a.m. broadcast. The Garrison Show

This take a second they will vote next week on a statewide smoking ban and whether to modify list of exemptions currently in the bill. The house passed a bill exempting bars, casinos, nursing homes, and tobacco shops. Alice Korean of Columbus is a lifelong non smoker that has been fighting stage four lung cancer for years. You know the dangers of secondhand smoke. I'm not passing a comprehensive clean air bill you are giving me pin thousands of other measures. Early death sentence. The bill's sponsors want a blanket ban but I'm sure they can get the folks at the statehouse airy permanent treat them to idc new.

**Ind. official: Smoking ban bill needs exemptions**

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9M5KGT80.htm>

By DEANNA MARTIN

March 24, 2011

Health advocates will have to live with wide exemptions in a proposed statewide smoking ban because a stricter, more comprehensive ban wouldn't be able to pass the conservative Indiana Senate, the head of a Senate committee said.

Sen. Ron Alting, R- Lafayette, said the bill has its best shot in years of passing because of exemptions for casinos, bars, clubs and even nursing homes.

"When I got elected 13 years ago, the advocates that want all or nothing are still here 13 years later with nothing," Alting said.

But health advocates told the Senate Public Policy Committee that Alting chairs that they wanted a more comprehensive smoking ban that would protect all workers, even those who work in casinos and bars.

Alice Curry of Columbus said she was diagnosed in 2009 with stage 4 lung cancer despite having never smoked and not having a family history of cancer. She wonders if time spent years ago in smoky teachers' lounges and sales offices contributed to the cancer and told lawmakers on the committee they have a responsibility to protect workers.

"Every person working and living in Indiana needs your help or they're going to end up fighting the battle that I'm fighting right now," she said, wiping away tears. "Every worker in Indiana should have the ability to work in a job that doesn't make them sick, or worse, kill them -- especially when we know how to avoid it."

The Senate committee didn't vote on the proposal Wednesday, and Alting said he'll decide later whether to take a vote after talking to advocates.

Bill sponsor Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, said he wants something passed this year but wants at least some of the exemptions removed.

"I am still hopeful that we can eliminate a couple of those exemptions," Brown said.

Removing the exemptions could complicate the legislation, however, because of a boycott by House Democrats. Any amended bill would have to go back to the House for approval, and if Democrats remain out long term that could jeopardize the bill.

Brown said he didn't think the walkout made it more difficult for him to shepherd the legislation through the General Assembly, and Alting welcomed Brown back to the Statehouse at the committee meeting Wednesday.

Sen. Brent Waltz, R-Greenwood, did criticize Brown for the boycott, saying that the walkout could cause some bills to die, including one of his that he considers important. He said the Senate was dealing with Brown's bill, but that so many other bills "will languish and very likely fail because of the actions of you and your colleagues in the House."

Brown said Democrats believe they are sticking up for their constituents.

The exemptions for casinos and horse racing tracks was approved by the House after the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency said banning smoking there could cost the cash-strapped state about \$190 million a year. The House later voted to exempt bars that only admit adults over age 21 after some lawmakers argued that it was unfair to exempt casinos and tracks without exempting bars, because bars located near casinos could lose business if smokers decided to hang out at casinos instead of at bars.

Exemptions for nursing homes and fraternal clubs were also added to appease those who said veterans and those living in nursing homes should have the right to smoke in certain areas.

Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels said he'd sign a statewide smoking ban into law if legislators approve it.



#### **EDITORIAL: New evidence bolsters smoking ban**

<http://tribstar.com/opinion/x106227244/Tribune-Star-editorial-New-evidence-bolsters-smoking-ban>

March 25, 2011

Circulation: 21,479

TERRE HAUTE — Legislation to institute a statewide smoking ban — even in its watered-down form that grants numerous exemptions — is still alive in the Indiana General Assembly. But it's on life support.

The compromise measure has already passed the House, and it received a Senate hearing this week. But there is no guarantee the chair of that Senate committee will even call the bill for a vote.

Despite its weakened chances for passage this year, and despite the exemptions that would make it far from comprehensive, the concept of a statewide smoking ban continues to gather support.

This week, Indiana University researchers released results of a study that shows that one community's smoke-free air had no effect on economic activity at an off-track betting facility.

One of the principle points of opposition to comprehensive smoking bans is that it would be bad for businesses such as bars, private clubs, casinos or other gambling outlets. Those types of businesses are currently exempt in the bill making its way through the Legislature.

The study found that a no-smoking law implemented in Fort Wayne didn't hurt business at its OTB venue. The study looked at the amount gamblers spent at three OTB venues from 2002 to 2009. The facilities included the smoke-free one in Fort Wayne and two venues that allow smoking in Indianapolis and Merrillville.

Research showed per capita spending declined at a similar rate for all three venues and that the overall economic downturn was to blame.

Jon Macy, the study's lead author, said past studies had shown smoke-free laws don't have a negative effect on businesses, but the study is one of the first to demonstrate such laws don't hurt gaming venues either.

"Given the well-established negative health consequences of secondhand smoke exposure, strong policies should be enacted to protect workers and patrons at gaming facilities from exposure to secondhand smoke," the authors wrote.

Terre Haute can be proud of the comprehensive smoke-free air ordinance its City Council passed earlier this year. Although it won't take effect for more than a year, it is on the way and will enhance public health. Any effort to weaken its scope should be vigorously opposed.

Workplace health is an important issue, and secondhand smoke compromises that. Being forced to make a decision between working in a healthy environment and drawing a paycheck should happen to no one.