

January 17, 2023

Dear Honorable 68th Legislative Assembly (2023-25) for North Dakota,

Please protect worker health and vote no on HB 1229. This bill would roll back North Dakota's Clean Indoor Air Act and allow cigar smoking in nearly ANY bar in North Dakota.

HB 1229 would allow for smoking cigars indoors if cigar sales make up an unbelievable minimum of 2% percent of annual gross income, allowing practically any entity to be labeled a cigar bar.

Worker health should be a top priority.

Everyone has the right to breathe clean smokefree air and no one should have to choose between their health and a job. North Dakota's workers already are risking their health to serve the public and make a living during the pandemic. Let's not endanger them further.

Secondhand smoke from cigars is just as dangerous as smoke from cigarettes.

- Secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals; hundreds are toxic, and about 70 can cause cancer.ⁱ
- In adults who have never smoked, secondhand smoke can cause heart disease, lung cancer and stroke.ⁱⁱ
- Secondhand smoke from cigars contains the same toxic chemicals as secondhand cigarette smoke.ⁱⁱⁱ
- There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke, and the only way to protect people from the dangers of secondhand smoke is to eliminate the smoke exposure.^{iv}

Renormalizing smoking indoors isn't the new norm the great state of North Dakota should be promoting. Please vote no to HB 1229 for allowing cigar smoking in bars.

Respectfully,

~Char Day

ANRF

Specialist | Program and Training

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Secondhand Smoke (SHS) Facts. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/general_facts/index.htm

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^{iv} Mayo Clinic. Expert Answers, is cigar smoking safer than cigarette smoking? <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/quit-smoking/expert-answers/cigar-smoking/faq-20057787>. November, 2019.

