

Written Testimony in Support of
Substitute for HB 2340
Senate Federal and State Affairs
February 2, 2012

Dear Senator Brungardt and Members of the Committee:

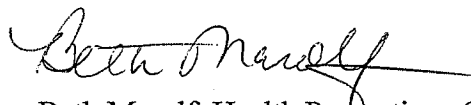
American Lung Association, Plains-Gulf Region, strongly supports SB 2340 and the efforts to remove existing exemptions from the Kansas Clean Indoor Air Law. We believe the current exemption allowing smoking in state-owned casinos should be removed to allow those employees the same healthy work environment as other workers in the state.

Casino workers, even those in a "well-ventilated" casino, are at risk. These workers have cotinine (metabolized nicotine) levels 300-600% higher than in other smoking workplaces. As a result, they are at greater risk for lung and heart disease because of secondhand smoke exposure. Given our state's commitment to providing healthy, smokefree work environments, we find it unacceptable that a line of compromise has been drawn which leaves Kansan casino employees overexposed and unprotected. Aren't they worthy of the same protections afforded to other workers?

On January 19, 2012 American Lung Association released its annual State of Tobacco Control report. Kansas received excellent ratings for its clean indoor air policies with one exception – casinos. The public overwhelmingly supports smokefree casinos (over 70% in polls nationwide). We know from efforts around the country that smokefree workplaces are good for business and good for health. Smokefree laws do not harm casinos or other gambling venues, just as they have not harmed sales in smokefree restaurants, bars, or bingo parlors.

We believe Kansas can do better and cares about **all** Kansans. Senate Bill 2340, and the removal of existing exemptions from the Kansas Clean Indoor Air Law, will protect the health and lives of *all* of Kansas' workers. We support SB 2340 because everyone deserves a healthy, Smokefree workplace.

Sincerely,



Beth Marolf, Health Promotions Coordinator
American Lung Association of the Plains-Gulf Region
Serving Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma & Texas
P.O. Box 8630
Topeka, KS. 66608
785-246-0377 (home office)
866-575-1761
bmarolf@breathehealthy.org
www.breathehealthy.org