

STATE SENATOR • TUPAC A. HUNTER • 5TH DISTRICT

Hunter Press Release

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Hunter Applauds Senate Approval of Smokefree Workplace Legislation

Bill bans smoking in all Michigan workplaces, including bars and restaurants

LANSING—Yesterday Sen. Tupac A. Hunter (D-Detroit) and a bipartisan majority of the Michigan Senate voted to pass legislation that would ban smoking in all Michigan workplaces, including bars and restaurants. Sen. Hunter hailed the passage of House Bill 4163 as a victory for Michigan workers.

"The bottom line is that there is no safe exposure level to secondhand smoke, and our workers deserve a healthy work environment," said Sen. Hunter. "It's a shame it took more than ten years to protect workers from the third leading cause of preventable death, but it's never too late to do the right thing."

Last December, the Michigan House voted 56-46 with bipartisan support to pass HB 4163, sponsored by Rep. Brenda Clack (D-Flint). Following today's vote, the bill heads back to the House for concurrence before heading to the Governor for approval.

Every day, thousands of Michigan residents who work in bars, restaurants, offices and factories are involuntarily subjected to second-hand smoke. According to the American Cancer Society, second-hand smoke is the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States, killing 38,000 to 65,000 nonsmokers every year. A study conducted at the University of California, Berkeley found that food service workers are approximately 50 percent more likely to develop lung cancer than the general public, because many are exposed to second-hand smoke at work.

Thirty-three states have already passed similar legislation to protect their workers from deadly exposure to secondhand smoke, including Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota.

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