

RESOLUTION

Subject: Smoking in Cars with Children

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Referred to: Reference Committee

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WHEREAS, the most recent data from the Center for Disease Control ranks Kentucky as the state with the second most adult smokers<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, since 1964, more than 20 million Americans have died from smoking and of those 20 million, 2.5 million deaths were a result of second hand smoke<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, babies exposed to secondhand smoke, after birth, are more likely to die of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, there is sufficient evidence to infer a causal relationship between exposure to secondhand smoke from smoking and respiratory complications in children such as: lower respiratory illnesses, lower level of lung function during childhood, onset of wheeze illnesses in early childhood, ever having asthmas among children of school age, and cough, phlegm, wheeze, and breathlessness among children of school age<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, evidence is suggestive of a causal relationship between prenatal and postnatal exposure to secondhand smoke and childhood cancers such as: leukemias, lymphomas, and brain tumors<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, evidence is sufficient to infer a causal relationship between prenatal exposure to smoke and middle ear disease in children, including acute and recurrent otitis media and chronic middle ear infection<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, concentrations of fine particulate matter in cars where smoking occurs is about three times the World Health Organization 24 h indoor air guidance value<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the United States Department of Health and Human Services concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke and the only way to protect nonsmokers from the harmful chemicals is to eliminate smoking indoors<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, currently, Arkansas, California, Louisianan, Maine, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia all have smokefree car laws<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are no smokefree car laws protecting minors from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in the state of Kentucky; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association support efforts to research the effects of secondhand smoke on children and minors riding in cars with someone smoking; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association collaborate with state and local health care organizations to educate the public about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in cars with minors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association support state and local provisions that prohibit smoking in cars with minors.

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<sup>1</sup>Center for Disease Control. (2016) Map of Cigarette Use Among Adults | STATE System. Retrieved August 1, 2016, from <http://www.cdc.gov/statesystem/cigaretteuseadult.html>

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. Printed with corrections, January 2014.

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.

<sup>4</sup>Semple, Sean S. Secondhand smoke in cars: assessing children's potential exposure during typical journey conditions. *Tobacco Control*, 21(6):578-583.

<sup>5</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

<sup>6</sup>Smokefree Cars. (2016) Retrieved August 1, 2016, from <http://www.no-smoke.org/learnmore.php?id=616>