



Legislative Update & Action Alert

June 6, 2008

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

House Budget Approved this Week

Secondhand Smoke Votes Expected in House AND Senate Committees Next Week

Contact Legislators NOW to Support SHS bills!

How fast things can move in one week during a short session! This week saw approval of the House budget by the full House. The final House budget includes funding for several items of interest to Alliance members and partners (see below). In an indication of how quickly things are moving, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees began meeting the day the House gave final approval to its budget.

In addition, the Alliance was made aware that not just one secondhand smoke bill may be considered by the Senate Health Care Committee: it is likely that next week will see a hearing and vote on all **three** secondhand smoke bills by both the House and Senate Health Committees.

Alliance Secondhand Smoke Priorities:

In Quick Turn of Events, Votes Expected Next Week in Both House and Senate Health Committees

Last week we thought just **ONE** secondhand smoke bill would be on the calendar for the Senate Health Care Committee. Now all **THREE** secondhand smoke bills could be scheduled to be heard by **BOTH** the House and Senate Health Committees next week (Tuesday, June 10 – House; Wed., June 11 – Senate).

These three secondhand smoke bills would:

- **S1681 / H2252:** Require all vehicles owned, operated and leased by the state be 100% smoke-free and clarify that local governments have authority to make vehicles owned, operated and leased by local government 100% smoke-free.
To read, go to: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2007/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1681v1.html>
- **S1686 / H2253:** Protect state workers and the public from secondhand smoke by establishing a 50 ft smoke-free perimeter around state government buildings, and grant local governments authority to establish a smoke-free perimeter of up to 50 ft around local government buildings.
To read, go to: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2007/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1686v2.html>

- **S1669 / H2254:** Grant the governing boards of local community colleges the clear authority to prohibit smoking on the grounds of their community college campuses.

To read, go to: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2007/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1669v1.html>

All three bills have been introduced by Sen. William Purcell and Rep. Jennifer Weiss on behalf of the Justus Warren Heart and Stroke Task Force. Talking points are now posted on the Alliance's website. See www.ncallianceforhealth.org.

Please contact members of both the Senate Health Care Committee and the House Health Committee to urge passage of these bills!

Please **URGE** House and Senate Health Committee members to **VOTE YES** on all three bills listed above (S1681 /H2252 State and Local Motor Fleets; S1686 / H2253 State and Local Grounds; S1669 / H2254 Community College Grounds).

MESSAGE: Please support these bills; they will protect community college students and state employees from the dangerous effects of secondhand smoke and clarify local control over smoking regulation.

Contact Your House and Senate Members to Urge Support for the Secondhand Smoke Bills:

House and Senate members listed below need to hear from you on the need for passage of these three secondhand smoke bills. Double click on the legislator's name to retrieve a direct phone number or email address.

House Health Committee Members:

Chairman	Rep. Bob England (Rutherford)
Vice Chairman	Rep. Beverly Earle (Mecklenburg)
Vice Chairman	Rep. Carolyn Justus (Henderson)
Vice Chairman	Rep. Ray Rapp (Haywood, Madison, Yancey)
Members	Rep. Alma Adams (Guildford)
	Rep. Martha Alexander (Mecklenburg)
	Rep. Cary Allred (Alamance)
	Rep. Marilyn Avila (Wake)
	Rep. Jeff Barnhart (Cabarrus)
	Rep. Joe Boylan (Moore)
	Rep. Harold Brubaker (Randolph)
	Rep. William Current (Gaston)
	Rep. Nelson Dollar (Wake)
	Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield (Wilson)
	Rep. Rick Glazier (Cumberland)
	Rep. Bruce Goforth (Buncombe)
	Rep. Robert Grady (Onslow)
	Rep. Jim Harrell (Surry)
	Rep. Ty Harrell (Wake)
	Rep. Hughes (New Hanover)
	Rep. Insko (Orange)
	Rep. Mary McAllister (Cumberland)
	Rep. Danny McComas (New Hanover)
	Rep. Marian McLawhorn (Pitt)
	Rep. Neumann (Gaston)

[Rep. Earline Parmon](#) (Forsyth)
[Rep. Charles Thomas](#) (Buncombe)
[Rep. William Wainwright](#) (Craven)
[Rep. Trudi Walend](#) (Transylvania)
[Rep. Winkie Wilkins](#) (Person)

Senate Health Care Committee Members:

Co-Chairman [Sen. Stan Bingham](#) (Davidson)
Co-Chairman [Sen. William R. Purcell](#) (Scotland) **SHS Bill co-sponsor
Vice Chairman [Sen. Katie G. Dorsett](#) (Guilford)
Vice Chairman [Sen. Tony Foriest](#) (Alamance)
Vice Chairman [Sen. James Forrester](#) (Gaston)
Members [Sen. Austin M. Allran](#) (Catawba)
[Sen. Bob Atwater](#) (Durham)
[Sen. Doug Berger](#) (Franklin)
[Sen. Harris Blake](#) (Moore)
[Sen. Peter S. Brunstetter](#) (Forsyth)
[Sen. Charlie S. Dannelly](#) (Mecklenburg)
[Sen. Kay R. Hagan](#) (Guilford)
[Sen. Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr.](#) (Cabarrus)
[Sen. David W. Hoyle](#) (Gaston)
[Sen. Jim Jacumin](#) (Burke)
[Sen. Ed Jones](#) (Halifax)
[Sen. Eleanor Kinnaird](#) (Orange)
[Sen. Vernon Malone](#) (Wake)
[Sen. Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr.](#) (Buncombe)
[Sen. Tony Rand](#) (Cumberland)

Alliance Budget Priorities:

The final House budget includes or omits the following Alliance priorities:

- There was **no** mention of raising the cigarette tax;
- There was **no** funding for the data collection request supported by the Alliance to collect Body Mass Index (BMI) for a random sample of NC students as well as data on how much physical education is currently being offered in NC public schools (this request is \$50,000);
- **The Tobacco Quitline** was funded at \$500,000 recurring annually. Please continue to urge Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs to include this budget item;
- **Obesity Demonstration Projects** were funded at \$2 million non-recurring annually (request was \$12.5 million). Please continue to urge Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs to include this budget item;
- **Child Nutrition Programs** were funded at \$4 million recurring annually (request was \$20 million). Please continue to urge Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs to include this budget item;

Please contact Senate members and urge them to KEEP funding in the budget for Child Nutrition Programs, Obesity Demonstration Projects and the Tobacco Quitline.

Please **URGE** Senate Appropriations Chairs (listed below) to include \$2 million for DPH Obesity Demonstration Projects, \$500,000 for the Tobacco Quitline and \$4 million for Child Nutrition Programs across the state.

How to Contact Your Senators about the Budget:

Senate members listed below need to hear from you about the need to fund these three programs. Double click on the senator's name to retrieve a direct phone number or email address.

Senate President Pro Temp Marc Basnight (D-Dare): 919-733-6854; Marcb@ncleg.net

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs:

- Co-Chairman [Sen. Charles W. Albertson](#) - Duplin
- Co-Chairman [Sen. Charlie S. Dannelly](#) - Mecklenburg
- Co-Chairman [Sen. Linda Garrou](#) - Forsyth
- [Sen. Kay R. Hagan](#) - Guilford
- [Sen. David W. Hoyle](#) - Gaston
- [Sen. Robert Pittenger](#) - Mecklenburg
- *[Sen. Tony Rand](#) - Cumberland
- [Sen. A. B Swindell](#) - Nash

Senate Education Appropriations Cmte Chr. [Sen. Vernon Malone](#) – Wake

E-MAIL:

To email your Representative, go to this link for your member's email address:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/reports/room-phone.pl?Chamber=House&viewType=normal>

To email your Senator, go to this link for your senator's email address:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/reports/room-phone.pl?Chamber=Senate&viewType=normal>

If you are not sure of the name of your representative or senator, check the General Assembly's website at:

http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/GIS/Representation/Who_Represents_Me/Who_Represents_Me.html

CALL:

To call your Representative or Senator, please call 919-733-4111 and ask for the legislator by name to be transferred.

For additional information about the Alliance, please contact
Alliance Executive Director Pam Seamans at pamseamans@nc.rr.com;
or Alliance Program Director Charlotte Ranz at crazn@mindspring.com.

What **MORE** can you do to promote the secondhand smoke issue?

Visit the Alliance's **new** website dedicated to making all worksites and public places smoke-free in NC. Simply point and click to send a message to your legislators.

www.smokefreenc.org

Have your organization, its board members, staff and volunteers sign the Alliance's secondhand smoke resolution to demonstrate your support for making North Carolina's worksites and public places smoke-free. Access the resolution by going to the Alliance's website at:

<http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/resolution.html>

Also available on our website are fact sheets, talking points and other resources on secondhand smoke and the cigarette tax.

**For additional information, go to
www.ncallianceforhealth.org
for talking points and other resources.**

Call 919-463-8328
or e-mail ncalliance@heart.org for more information