



**Support SB 1669**  
**Grant Clear Authority to Local**  
**Community Colleges to Make**  
**Grounds Tobacco-Free**  
June 2008

**SB 1669 clarifies the authority of local community college governing boards to prohibit smoking on the grounds of their community college campus.**

**Community Colleges Need Clear Authority to Protect Students from Secondhand Smoke**

- Local community colleges were granted the authority to prohibit smoking in buildings and on campuses in 2005 (HB 448 /S.L. 2006-133). However in 2007, HB24 (S. L. 2007-193) unintentionally limited authority of community colleges, as a local government agency, to regulate smoking on their grounds. SB1669 would simply grant clear local authority to community college boards to regulate smoking on their campuses.
- Of the 58 community colleges in the state, only 7 are 100% tobacco-free, including grounds.<sup>1</sup> Clarifying the authority to make grounds smoke-free would fuel this effort.
- The Health & Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) provides 15 Tobacco Free College grants which work directly with 18 community colleges (along with other two & four year institutions). HWTF also provides technical assistance to the remaining 40 community colleges to assist them in passing & implementing 100% Tobacco Free policies.<sup>2</sup>
- The General Assembly has a strong history of protecting students from exposure to secondhand smoke and clarifying authority to pass strong policy. In 2007, the Tobacco Free Schools bill (SB 1086) and the Smoke-Free UNC bill (SB 862) made schools tobacco-free and clarified UNC's authority to make buildings, grounds and facilities smoke-free.

**Students Need Consistent Protection from Exposure to Secondhand Smoke**

- Currently, 28,882 high school students are taking classes on community college campuses, and this is expected to increase in the next year.
- The tobacco-free effort with the community college system mirrors the Tobacco-Free Schools movement, which was successful in protecting students by making NC's public school systems 100% tobacco-free.
- **Students need clear messages--secondhand smoke is harmful everywhere all the time.** Students should be able to move from 100% tobacco-free high school campuses to 100% tobacco-free community college campuses. SB 1669 will make it possible for community colleges to go 100% tobacco-free campus-wide.

**Secondhand Smoke is Harmful to Health**

- **According to the US Surgeon General, there is NO safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.** The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on the Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Secondhand Smoke found that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.<sup>3</sup>
- **Young adults (18-24 year olds) are at high risk for tobacco use.** In N.C., 27.8 percent of 18-24 year olds are current smokers compared to 22.1% in the adult population.<sup>4</sup>
- **Several studies have shown that smoke outside does not blow away, instead that it lingers.** Other studies have shown that outdoor areas where people smoke can be 8-10 times as smoky as a busy highway.<sup>5 6</sup>

**Protect students from secondhand smoke. Clarify the authority of community college governing boards to regulate smoking campus-wide.**

**Vote Yes on SB 1669**

For more information, contact NC Alliance for Health at [ncalliance@heart.org](mailto:ncalliance@heart.org); 919-463-8328

## References:

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- <sup>1</sup> Those community colleges are: Stanly Community College, Asheville-Buncombe Community College, Cleveland Community College, Roanoke-Chowan Community College, Guilford Tech Community College, Wake Tech Community College, and College of the Albemarle.
- <sup>2</sup> Demonstrating interest among the community colleges in the tobacco-free movement is the fact that the community colleges have already created a campaign to cut smoking on campuses and have created a resource website:  
[http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/External\\_Affairs/Smokeout%20campaign.htm](http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/External_Affairs/Smokeout%20campaign.htm)
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General—Executive Summary*. 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>4</sup> NC State Center for Health Statistics, Who's Still Smoking in North Carolina?, A Report of 2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey  
<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/brfss/pdf/brfssgaso07.pdf>
- <sup>5</sup> (Citations: Repace, J. Measurements of outdoor air pollution from secondhand smoke on the UMBC campus (June, 2005)  
<http://www.repace.com/pdf/outdoorair.pdf>
- <sup>6</sup> Boffi, R.; Ruprecht, A.; Mazza, R.; Ketzel, M.; Invernizzi, G., "A day at the European Respiratory Society Congress: passive smoking influences both outdoor and indoor air quality," *European Respiratory Journal* 27(4): 862-863, April 2006.  
<http://erj.ersjournals.com.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/cgi/reprint/27/4/862>