

Small Businesses Are Already Regulated to Protect the Public

- ✓ Private property rights of businesses and facilities must be secondary to the rights of employees to work in a safe environment free of health hazards, including the nearly 4,000 toxic chemicals in secondhand smoke, just as workers are protected from other hazardous chemicals.
- ✓ North Carolina state law regulates and licenses occupations, businesses, trades, professions, and forms of amusement or entertainment and prohibits those that may be harmful to the public health, welfare, or safety.¹
- ✓ Some examples of state regulations to ensure the safety of consumers and workers:
 - Regulate **restaurant** food safety, such as temperature requirements, building codes, dress-code of employees²
 - Require radiation training for **tanning bed operators**³
 - Require **pharmacies** to monitor and evaluate quality of services provided to customers⁴
 - Regulate garbage disposal, pest management and linen maintenance in **bed and breakfast** inns⁵
 - Require **tattoo parlors** to sanitize equipment and prohibits tattoo parlors from coming in contact with blood or providing services to visibly ill customers.⁶
 - Regulates the use of paints, movie-screen materials, and sprinkler systems for **all buildings**.⁷
 - Define the qualifications of sanitarians⁸
 - Regulate the condition and specifications of **roller skating rinks**⁹
 - Require **State agencies** to establish a written program for workplace safety and health.¹⁰
- ✓ These measures ensure the safety of North Carolinians from exposure to food-borne illness, radiation, harmful drug interactions, pest infestations, hepatitis and toxins.
- ✓ There are 102,000 small businesses with four or fewer employees in North Carolina, employing 168,000, or 5%, of North Carolinians¹¹. These employees deserve to be protected.

Smoke-Free Policies Save Money and Don't Hurt Business

- ✓ In addition to saving lives, smoke-free policies save health care costs. A recent study in Pueblo, Colorado found the rate of heart attacks declined 41% during the first three years after a smoke-free law went into effect. Not only did fewer people have heart attacks, but this had a rippling effect on public and private health care costs.¹²
- ✓ Tobacco use costs North Carolina taxpayers \$2.46 billion in direct healthcare costs (including \$769 million in Medicaid expenses alone), and an additional \$3.3 billion in lost productivity annually.¹³
- ✓ Studies show that smoke-free workplace laws have either a positive or neutral effect on business. In fact, no rigorous, scientifically conducted study has found negative economic impact from smoke-free policies.¹⁴ Even in North Carolina, the number one tobacco producing state in the nation, smoke-free policies did not hurt business.¹⁵
- ✓ Employees who smoke have an average insured payment for health care of \$1,145, while nonsmoking employees average \$762.¹⁶ Smokers, on average, miss more work days and use more healthcare resources than employees who do not smoke.^{17 18 19}

**Support HB 2 because all North Carolinians have a right
to a smoke-free workplace and to breathe clean air**

Tobacco Use Is Killing North Carolina²⁰

- ✓ There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.²¹ Every year secondhand smoke causes 35,000 deaths in the U.S.²² In North Carolina, more than 1,000 adults, children and babies die each year from others' smoking.²³
- ✓ As little as thirty minutes of exposure to secondhand smoke can trigger a heart attack in someone with heart disease or risk factors for heart disease.²⁴ Most people work eight-hour shifts. Restaurant workers often work longer hours.
- ✓ Non-smokers routinely exposed to secondhand smoke have a 50% increase in risk of developing lung cancer.^{25 26 27}
- ✓ 1.5 million North Carolina adults smoke, leading to nearly 12,000 preventable deaths a year caused by smoking, and more than 1,000 deaths among non-smokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke. This costs North Carolina taxpayers \$2.46 billion in direct healthcare costs (including \$769 million in Medicaid expenses alone), and \$3.3 billion in lost productivity annually.
- ✓ 11,800 North Carolina children will become regular smokers this year, buying more than 25 million packs of cigarettes. 194,000 children alive today will die prematurely because of smoking.

References:

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- ³ §735 An Act Pertaining to Training Requirements for Tanning Equipment Operators. Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/1991/Bills/Senate/HTML/S758v3.html>
- ⁴ §2005-427 An Act Establishing the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Protection Act to Facilitate the Continuous Review of the Practice of Pharmacy. Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1493v6.html>
- ⁵ NC Department of Environmental Health 15A NCAC 18A.3001 Bed and Breakfast Inns Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: <http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/ehs/images/rules/t15a-18a.30.pdf>
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- ⁸ § 90A-53. Qualifications and examination for registration as a sanitarian. Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: http://www.ncleg.net/enactedlegislation/statutes/html/bysection/chapter_90a/gs_90a-53.html
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- ¹² Alsever, RN., Thomas, WM., Nevin-Woods, C., et al., "Reduced Hospitalizations for Acute Myocardial Infarction After Implementation of a Smoke-Free Ordinance --- City of Pueblo, Colorado, 2002—2006" January 2, 2009 / 57(51);1373-1377.
- ¹³ "The Toll of Tobacco in North Carolina" Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Downloaded on October 27, 2008 at: <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=NC>
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- ¹⁵ Goldstein, A., Sobel, R. Environmental tobacco smoke regulations have not hurt restaurant sales in North Carolina. *North Carolina Medical Journal* 59(5): 284-288, September/October 1998.
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