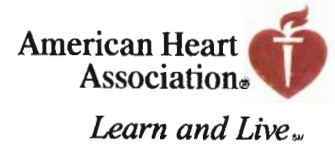


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Argument in favor  
Secondhand smoke and heart disease  
Smoke-Free Arizona

The exposure of Arizona citizens to secondhand smoke is unnecessary. Secondhand smoke is the single largest contributor to indoor air pollution. Earlier in the year, the Surgeon General's report about tobacco health provided irrefutable scientific evidence that secondhand smoke is a major risk factor for cardiovascular diseases – the nation's No. 1 killer. According to the Center of Disease Control, more than 35,000 nonsmokers die each year from coronary heart disease as a result of exposure from secondhand smoke.

These deaths are preventable. Last year the Center for Disease Control issued a warning that people with an increased risk of coronary heart disease or with known coronary artery disease should be advised to avoid all indoor environments that permit smoking. The bottom line is that secondhand smoke has negative affects on the heart and circulatory system.

By working together we can prevent illness and death related to exposure to secondhand smoke. The passage of the Smoke-free initiative, led by the America Heart Association, American Cancer Society, America Lung Association and the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, will prohibit smoking in all public places and limit exposure to poisonous secondhand smoke. People who have chosen to abstain from tobacco use and its negative health effects should not be forced to breathe air polluted by secondhand smoke. We all deserve to breathe clean air and protect the health of our loved ones. It is time to take all citizens health seriously by adopting clean air policies. Please join us by supporting the Smoke-Free Arizona initiative.

Sincerely,

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Susan Edwards  
Chairman  
Phoenix Metro Board  
American Heart Association

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Nathan Laufer, M.D.  
President  
Phoenix Metro Board  
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