



Midwest Affiliate  
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www.heart.org

## Testimony on Sub HB 2340

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Substitute for House Bill 2340. My name is Kevin Walker and I am regional vice president of advocacy for the American Heart Association.

For years our organization has worked tirelessly to encourage communities and states to become smoke free. We have done this because the scientific evidence is very clear – **there is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoke**. Second hand-smoke produces immediate adverse effects on heart function, blood platelets, inflammation, endothelial function and the vascular system.

We have always advocated for comprehensive clean indoor air laws that are free from exemptions. Current Kansas law provides for several exemptions and **the American Heart Association supports eliminating all exemptions from the current law**. Additionally, **we oppose adding additional exemptions**.

The law is in place to protect the public from the well-documented dangers of tobacco smoke. By allowing exemptions we are creating an environment where some employees are forced to choose between employment and their health. As a matter of public policy we should never force someone to choose between their health and their income. Kansas has taken a bold step in making most public places smoke free. You have before you an opportunity to complete the task.