

March 15, 2012

**Testimony in Support of SB 462
before the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

Senator Brungardt & Members of the Committee,

The American Lung Association strongly **supports SB 462** because it guarantees Kansas better physical and financial health for its citizens.

There are specific guarantees in this legislation: fewer lives will be lost to tobacco; and the state's financial position will brighten considerably.

Simply said, smoking tobacco is smoking tobacco. It matters not whether the tobacco is encased in paper or rolled tobacco leaves, smoking causes death and destruction. In fact, tobacco is the only product, when consumed exactly as intended, has these devastating effects.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of lung cancer and other respiratory illnesses such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Of all cancers, lung cancer has the highest fatality rate for both women and men, responsible for more cancer deaths than colon, breast and prostate combined. More than half of patients diagnosed with lung cancer die within one year. Smoking contributes to 90 per cent of lung cancers in men and 80 per cent in women. Men who smoke are 23 times more likely to develop lung cancer than those who have never smoked and women are 13 more likely.

And what of our underage children in Kansas? Record numbers are becoming addicted to tobacco. Note these are under the legal age to purchase tobacco products. Credible research has shown that youth are very price-sensitive to these products. The more they cost, the less likely underage children are to purchase them.

Please support SB462, for our adult health, our children and the economic outlook of our state.

Beth Marolf, Health Promotions Coordinator
American Lung Association – Plains/Gulf Region
*Serving Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi,
Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma & Texas*

P.O. Box 8630
Topeka, KS. 66608
785-246-0377
866-575-1761 (fax)
bmarolf@breathehealthy.org
www.breathehealthy.org