



**Testimony in favor of HB 2739 before the
House Health and Human Services Committee
February 16, 2006**

Dear Chairman Morrison:

As president of the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, I'm writing to express support for HB2739.

The science indicting Second Hand Smoke (SHS) for its multiple adverse effects on human health is now beyond informed dispute.

If there is any place – any there are many places – in which protecting the public against SHS is essential, it is in Kansas' hospitals and clinics. In many communities, there are only one or two such facilities. If healthcare professionals wish to contribute their skills to the communities in which they live, they are obliged to do so within these local healthcare facilities. When these facilities expose their workers to SHS in and around hospitals, these professionals have few options – either endure the damage to their own health, or leave town.

Still, those most vulnerable to SHS effects are the patients and their visitors who must pass through these hospital facilities and their campuses in order to obtain essential healthcare services. With health already impaired, this high-risk population is even more susceptible to SHS-induced damage. They shouldn't have to jeopardize their health in order to preserve it.

I hope you will see the necessity for ensuring that both victims of disease, and the dedicated professionals who care for them, receive the protection from SHS they deserve. Please give your support to HB 2739.

Sincerely,

Jon Hauxwell, MD
President, Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition

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