

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Charlie Baase
June 16, 2003
(517) 827-0020 ext: 206
cell: (517) 214-0695
cbaase@tobaccofreemichigan.org

Survey shows overwhelming support for smoke-free regulation among Genesee County residents

Lansing, MI (June 16, 2003) – Survey results being released today show Genesee County residents have made it clear that they support a regulation being considered by county commissioners providing smoke-free workplaces.

A telephone survey of voters in Genesee County found that 83% believe a county regulation is needed to protect workers and children from exposure to secondhand smoke in worksites and public places. The poll also showed that 89% of residents recognize secondhand smoke is harmful to people and 89% think worksites should be smoke-free.

The survey was commissioned by Tobacco-Free Michigan and conducted by American Cancer Society, polling 578 Genesee County residents on their attitudes and understanding about secondhand smoke and smoking in public places and worksites.

"Genesee county residents obviously know the risks of secondhand smoke in the workplace and want action taken," said Mary Soper, Executive Director for Tobacco-Free Michigan.

Between 1,410 and 2,510 Michigan residents die each year from secondhand smoke, many of them exposed in the workplace.

"No one should have to risk their health in order to bring home a paycheck," said Amy Krug, Regional Manager of American Lung Association of Michigan. "This survey shows that Genesee County residents believe their County Commissioners have an opportunity and obligation to pass a health regulation providing smoke-free air."

These results come in the wake of other counties that have conducted surveys. Ingham, Kent, Marquette and Jackson Counties have also done surveys which showed wide support for regulations.

Hundreds of cities and counties across the country have enacted regulations protecting the working public from secondhand smoke. In Michigan, the City of Marquette, Ingham County and Washtenaw County have passed 100% smokefree regulations for worksites and public places.

“This survey assures the County Board of Commissioners and county health officials that the public fully supports elected representatives who guarantee safe and healthy smoke-free environments in which to work and play," said Judy Stewart, Interim Government Relations Manager for the American Cancer Society.

Tobacco-Free Michigan is a statewide grassroots coalition representing more than 150 public health, medical, community, faith-based and advocacy organizations across Michigan. The coalition is dedicated to promoting tobacco-free environments and to improving health and quality of life through education and advocacy.

###



A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PROMOTING TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENTS
AND TO IMPROVING HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.