

Defending Your Right to Breathe Smokefree Air Since 1976

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY TAKES CHARGE IN EFFORT TO ERASE DECADES OF PROGRESS

For decades, workers, doctors, and advocates have fought to help shift societal norms on smoking, keep secondhand smoke out of their workplaces, and expose the industry's lies—and we've made real progress. Smoking rates are at record lows. Most Americans now expect clean air in restaurants, airplanes, and workplaces. The arguments Big Tobacco relies on have been debunked, exposed as tactics to delay progress and protect profits.

Thanks to prevention campaigns, stronger smokefree laws, and support programs that helped millions quit smoking, lung cancer and COPD rates have fallen. This progress didn't happen by chance. It came because communities, doctors, scientists, and policymakers stood up to one of the most powerful industries in history, forcing accountability and exposing decades of deception.

Tobacco Industry, continued on page 4

“While millions of Americans take their right to breathe clean air for granted, the programs and safeguards that brought us this far are being dismantled.”

CASINO INDUSTRY HAS PUSHED A FALSE NARRATIVE

NO EXCUSE NOT TO ELIMINATE INDOOR SMOKING



Atlantic City, NJ—In 2025, the Atlantic City casino industry had its best summer in more than ten years, bringing in more than \$855 million from June through August—a 5.5% increase in revenue from the same period last year. But while casinos are raking in money this summer, casino workers are still fighting for their basic right to breathe clean air in the workplace.

“In rejecting our calls to simply be able to breathe clean air at work, the casino industry has repeatedly argued that they can't change their policies in the 'fragile' business environment,” said Pete Naccarelli, longtime Atlantic City table games dealer and co-founder of Casino Employees Against Smoking Effects (CEASE). “Despite all of the evidence to prove that eliminating smoking will not negatively impact

Casinos, continued on page 2

CIGAR INDUSTRY

TRIES TO MAINTAIN INDOOR SMOKING

Team ANR/F has been on high alert, primed to take action as the cigar industry 'culture vultures' circle around long standing, popular smokefree laws looking for a chance to eke out broad and vague exemptions at the state and local level. In states that lack 100% protections, the industry is looking to peck out loopholes and carveouts to maintain indoor smoking.

INDOOR CIGAR SMOKING, A FLAWED CONCEPT

The entire concept pitched by the industry is not a true reflection of the products consumed and the spaces where smoking is still allowed. Cigars, promoted as premium products only consumed by adults in venues meant exclusively for cigar consumption, can seem reasonable to a lawmaker. However, in reality, we find that the threshold for meeting the definition of cigar can be extremely weak. This could be a cigarette simply wrapped in brown paper, which is very popular among young

Cigars, continued on page 3

the industry’s success, Atlantic City casinos have pushed back, telling us that their businesses simply can’t handle the possibility. But clearly, casinos are making more than enough to weather any changes. While the industry executives make millions of dollars, casino workers have to face health issues due to toxic secondhand smoke just to make a living. How is this fair?”

For years, Atlantic City casinos have clung to the outdated and false argument that eliminating smoking would drive away patrons from brick-and-mortar casinos. However, this theory has been proven false by the very researchers that the casino industry relies on—in May, Spectrum analysts noted that in Philadelphia (Atlantic City’s biggest and nearest casino market competitor) eliminating smoking from casinos even seemed to attract customers. Parx Casino in Philadelphia was the only casino in the state of Pennsylvania to remain smokefree permanently after Covid-19 smokefree regulations were lifted, and it had the best post-pandemic rebound in table games revenue among casinos in the area. Meanwhile, many states in the Northeast, including New York and Connecticut, have smokefree laws and thriving casinos.

Even if it were true (it isn’t) that smokefree policies would hurt business, after their best summer in a decade, Atlantic City casinos should drop the pretenses and do what’s right for workers’ health. Figures released on December 2 by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement show that brick-and-mortar casinos have won more than online betting operations for the fourth month in a row. The industry’s record-setting summer was capped by a fantastic August, earning nearly \$312 million in the month alone—a 6.1% increase from the year prior. If Atlantic City casinos are earning so much, why won’t they put their workers’ health above any (unlikely) revenue loss? ■



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THE CASINO INDUSTRY HAS REPEATEDLY ARGUED THAT THEY CAN'T CHANGE THEIR POLICIES IN THE 'FRAGILE' BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT...CLEARLY, CASINOS ARE MAKING MORE THAN ENOUGH TO WEATHER ANY CHANGES. WHILE INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES MAKE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, CASINO WORKERS FACE HEALTH ISSUES DUE TO TOXIC SECONDHAND SMOKE JUST TO MAKE A LIVING. HOW IS THIS FAIR?

Pete Naccarelli
Table Games Dealer & Co-Founder CEASE

G.E.A.S.E.
GAMING EMPLOYEES AGAINST SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE

STAY INFORMED. GET INVOLVED. BE CONNECTED.



LinkTree: @smokefree

ADVOCACY Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights is a national advocacy group protecting nonsmokers from secondhand smoke. ANR is a registered 501(c)(4) lobbying organization under the IRS Code.

nonsmokersrights.org

EDUCATION ANR Foundation is the 501(c)(3) educational arm of ANR.

no-smoke.org

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ANR UPDATE

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Cigars, continued from cover

people. And rather than purely a smoking-style lounge as pitched in the main terminal of the Detroit Wayne County Airport, these are often full service entertainment destinations with whiskey or wine pairings, bougie bites, and even live music.

CO-OPTING CULTURE

The cigar and tobacco industries are on a perpetual mission to rebrand their image, reshaping consumers' views around smoking, including new and emerging trends that embrace marijuana, vaping products, hookah, and cigars as activities "for the culture." While tobacco industry interference to smokefree laws is not new, the industry has refined its tactics to exploit how groups identify and represent their culture. The industry's alignment with cultural identity

and its promotion of trends such as "cigar culture" or "hookah culture" or even "cowboy culture" as we saw in Montana not only increase its appeal among vulnerable populations, but they also minimize the stigma around smoking and raise the social acceptability of exposure to secondhand smoke. Consequently, vulnerable populations are more willing to ignore health concerns in favor of popular social and pseudo-cultural trends.

In the Field

A litany of poorly worded legislation has been flooding the field. The **Louisville (KY) Metro Council** rushed to pass a cigar bar exemption from their strong local law before the "Call to the Post" (as Louisville is home to famed the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs) to ensure the bourbon and cigar tourism culture could be enjoyed. Fortunately, advocates prevented a statewide law from advancing on the same issue. **Indiana** approved a sweeping, confusing, and vague cigar exemption to their statewide law as part of a larger and popular alcoholic beverage bill making input from the public extremely difficult. Neighbors in **Ohio** were able to thwart similar language from advancing but will be on the lookout for new threats in the upcoming session. **Wisconsin** is in the throes of a battle right now to push back on "tobacco bars" that will be licensed rather than exempted from the smokefree law, making the law preemptive in nature. Despite months of speaking out, the **Detroit Wayne County Airport Authority** has determined they will advance an RFP for a cigar lounge vendor to open in the main terminal of the airport. We celebrate 20 years of the **Montana** statewide smokefree law and applaud the efforts of their coalition and lawmakers to protect the integrity of the law from recent threats for a cigar bar rollback.

An Economic Growth Smokescreen

The tobacco industry is crafty and will frame its profits-over-people business model however necessary to win approval. Leveraging arguments to encourage Black entrepreneurship and economic growth in neighborhoods that need quality jobs, the industry co-opts decision makers of color, compromising their commitments to health and wellness through exemptions for cigar and hookah lounges that undermine those very principles. Furthermore, it should be noted that cigar bars rarely turn a profit as intended, create few jobs, and expose everyone to toxic secondhand smoke.

What's Next

If you know ANR, you know we will not sit idly by while the network of our popular, effective smokefree laws that protect nearly 70% of the US population is under attack from the tobacco, cigar, and marijuana industries. We are committed as ever to staying organized, responding nimbly, and activating coalitions. We need strong decision maker champions to call out these venues for what they are and flex their power and prioritize smokefree air. We hope you'll join us for an upcoming **Cigar Secondhand Smoke Office Hours** to talk through strategy and connect with colleagues across the country. Take action: sign the petition to keep DTW smokefree! <https://www.keepmikidstobaccofree.com/keep-dtw-smokefree>



RESOURCES

CIGAR SMOKE

DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE:
SECONDHAND CIGAR SMOKE IS HAZARDOUS

REGISTER FOR CIGAR OFFICE HOURS

DOWNLOAD OUR CIGAR ONE-PAGER

But this progress has never been permanent. While millions of Americans take their right to breathe clean air for granted, the programs and safeguards that brought us this far are being dismantled. Big Tobacco has been waiting for this moment. As soon as watchdogs let down their guard, the industry rushed in. The Trump administration has quietly gutted the federal effort to fight tobacco. The scale of the damage is staggering. More than 120 members of the Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) have been dismissed, effectively eliminating the team that supported lifesaving quitlines, state programs, and the “Tips From Former Smokers” campaign. That campaign alone has helped millions of Americans quit smoking and saved an estimated \$7.3 billion in healthcare costs.

Meanwhile, the FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products has seen steep cuts, crippling its ability to regulate an industry that continues to hook kids with flavored vapes and new products like nicotine pouches. The 2024 Surgeon General’s Report on Smoking and Secondhand Smoke—a cornerstone of public health research—was taken offline. Research that tracked youth tobacco use has been halted, leaving us blind to the scope of the problem.

THESE ROLLBACKS PLAY DIRECTLY INTO THE HANDS OF BIG TOBACCO.

The cuts aren’t abstract. They mean more disease, more death, and more families left behind. Smoking still kills nearly half a million Americans every year, and secondhand smoke remains a leading cause of preventable illness. Workers in airports, bars, music venues, and casinos—including the dealers and servers I’ve spoken to—continue to breathe dangerous smoke on the job. In Atlantic City, I listened as one casino worker described being forced to inhale secondhand smoke while pregnant, unable to turn away from customers at the table, putting her unborn child at risk. Another worker told me how he dreads coming home from his shift smelling of smoke, knowing his grandchildren are breathing the toxins clinging to his clothes. These are not numbers in a spreadsheet; they are lives, families, and communities.

MEANWHILE, BIG TOBACCO BENEFITS.

With fewer regulators, less oversight, and no public

education campaigns countering their marketing, companies are free to introduce new products and addict a new generation. Youth use of nicotine pouches and e-cigarettes is already surging. By dismantling tobacco prevention infrastructure, we are handing the industry exactly what it has always wanted: the chance to normalize nicotine addiction again.

The United States cannot afford to let decades of progress unravel. Smoking-related illnesses cost our nation \$241 billion annually, with taxpayers footing 60 percent of the bill. These cuts will only drive those costs higher—while inflicting unnecessary suffering on millions of families. Cutting prevention programs is

not saving money; it’s a false economy that transfers billions in future healthcare costs onto the taxpayer.

The real winners here are the tobacco companies. With watchdogs sidelined, they have free rein to push flavored vapes and nicotine pouches to kids, roll out new products with little oversight, and quietly claw back the ground they lost over decades of public health progress. This isn’t an accident. It’s the result of an industry that has always worked behind the curtain, pulling levers of power to protect its profits.

“ In Atlantic City, I listened as one casino worker described being forced to inhale secondhand smoke while pregnant, unable to turn away from customers at the table, putting her unborn child at risk. These are not numbers in a spreadsheet; they are lives, families, and communities. ”

Bronson Frick,
Director of Advocacy



Congress didn’t cause this crisis, but it has the power to fix it. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle should be asking hard questions about why the public is being left defenseless against one of the deadliest industries in history. Until then, states and localities can step up by strengthening commercial tobacco prevention policies, including closing gaps in smokefree protections that leave millions of workers exposed to secondhand smoke. Universities, nonprofits, and private funders must also keep quitlines and prevention campaigns alive. Protecting these programs is not just about budgets or bureaucracy. It’s about whether nonsmoking workers have to worry about heart attacks on the job, or lung cancer from extended secondhand smoke exposure, whether kids are protected from nicotine addiction, and whether we allow Big Tobacco to rewrite the future.

The tobacco industry has always played the long game. So must we. Too many lives are at stake. ■

—**Bronson Frick**, Director of Advocacy, ANR/FF

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

SMOKEFREE INDOOR LAWS
AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2025

Enacted

ALABAMA	Orange Beach	Co, Grant Co, Kittson Co,
ALASKA	Sitka	Koochiching Co, Otter Tail
ARIZONA	Scottsdale	Co, Pipestone Co, Pope
CALIFORNIA	Oakland, Pittsburg, Redwood City, Santa Cruz Co	Co, Royalton, Willmar, Worthington
COLORADO	Longmont	MISSISSIPPI Golden, Soso
LOUISIANA	Gibsland	NEW YORK Peekskill, Yorktown
MARYLAND	North Beach	NORTH DAKOTA Mandan
MINNESOTA	Alexandria, Anoka Co, Brooklyn Center, Brown Co, Chaska, Cottonwood Co, Douglas	TEXAS Euless, Laredo, Shiner, Wylie
		WASHINGTON Oak Harbor
		WISCONSIN Somerset

Pending

CALIFORNIA Palm Springs
MASSACHUSETTS
Williamstown

NEW SMOKEFREE STATE/TERRITORY BILLS
AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2025

Indiana: Enacted a law that weakens state smokefree air protections by allowing cigar smoking rooms attached to restaurants.

Montana: Enacted a law that strengthens state smokefree air protections by prohibiting the use of vaping products wherever smoking is not allowed. Montana also successfully blocked a bill that would have created an exemption for cigar bars.

Rhode Island: Enacted a law that allows casinos to still permit indoor smoking in pari-mutuel smoking lounges, instead of closing the casino smoking loophole as the bill **originally intended**.

Wisconsin: The legislature has passed a bill to create an exemption that will allow for tobacco bars, which means that existing bars could open cigar lounges. AB211 has been sent to the Governor for approval and ANR signed onto a letter encouraging him to veto the bill.

LEGAL UPDATES

CEASE NEWS

A **Rhode Island** casino worker recently won a workers' compensation case to cover medical expenses caused by secondhand smoke exposure, heroically taking it all the way to a verdict in hopes of inspiring other workers do the same.

In **New Jersey**, tens of thousands of casino and hospitality workers are still breathing smoke every shift, including through the holiday rush—getting sick from other people's cigarettes and cigars.

Smoking is banned outdoors on the Atlantic City boardwalk to protect birds, yet it remains legal inside casinos, putting workers and the public at risk.

In December, frontline casino workers and the UAW will argue before the **New Jersey State Court of Appeals** that this exemption violates the state's constitutional right to safety.

ANR has filed an amicus brief supporting their case, documenting the dangers of secondhand smoke and the failure of ventilation and smoking sections to protect health.

Get breaking news delivered to your inbox
nonsmokersrights.org/anr-action-network

SMOKEFREE CONNECTION

MACALESTER COLLEGE ALUMNI
MAGAZINE RECOGNIZE TWO ALUMNI
ASSOCIATED WITH ANR



Ann Williamson '60 and Maggie Leighninger Hopkins '94 met in March at a special event celebrating "Smokefree Heroes" at the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation in Berkeley, Calif. Maggie works as director of data management and analysis for ANRF, and Ann was recognized as an early advocate for smoke-free air.

IN MEMORIAM

ERNIE STEVENS, JR.

American Nonsmokers' Rights (ANR) Foundation joins Indian Country and the Tribal public health community in mourning the profound loss of Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr., esteemed leader of the Indian Gaming Association.

Chairman Stevens was a powerful advocate for Tribal sovereignty, economic empowerment, and the health and well-being of Native communities. His leadership and vision elevated Tribal voices on national and international stages, and his legacy will continue to guide and inspire generations to come.



At the ANR Foundation, we have been honored to work in partnership with Tribes for decades to support public health initiatives that align with Tribal values and priorities. We respect and uphold the right of Tribal self-determination, and we are committed to providing the tools, resources, and infrastructure that allow Tribes to lead their own policy efforts—particularly around ceremonial and commercial tobacco.

Over the past twenty years, many of our staff and consultants have had the privilege of attending Indian Gaming Association Conferences. In 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ANR Foundation was invited by the IGA to participate in a panel on smokefree gaming—an opportunity that reflected the dedication and leadership of Tribes who set the standard for safe reopening measures within the customer service industry.

Chairman Stevens exemplified leadership, wisdom, and service. We at the ANR Foundation are deeply saddened by his passing and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and the entire Tribal community. We honor his memory by continuing to stand in respectful partnership with Tribes, guided by the values of mutual trust, support, and respect.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

During Native American Heritage Month, ANR Foundation honored the rich histories, diverse cultures, and enduring sovereignty of Tribal Nations and People across Turtle Island. We celebrated the wisdom, leadership, and resilience of Tribal communities who continue to protect health, culture, and future generations.

Our work alongside Tribes to address the harms of commercial tobacco is guided by deep respect for traditional tobacco's significant role in many Native cultures.

Together, we strive to reclaim health and wellness while upholding the sovereignty and self-determination of every Tribe. If you would like to collaborate with the ANR Foundation on commercial tobacco prevention policies, please contact **Clinton Isham**, ANR Foundation's Tribal Relations Consultant: tribalrealtions@no-smoke.org.



Clinton Isham



CELEBRATING THE RESILIENCE OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES WHO CONTINUE TO PROTECT HEALTH AND CULTURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



BRINGING IT BACK INSIDE: HOW CANNABIS LOUNGE ROLLBACKS ARE AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

After decades of protecting workers and the public from secondhand smoke, clean indoor air protections are under threat. As communities and states look toward 2026, the intersection between cannabis and smokefree air protections will need to remain on the radar of tobacco prevention staff and advocates alike.

In 2025, legalization of adult-use cannabis was considered in four states—**Pennsylvania, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and Louisiana**; none of the states have passed the legislation. However, it is likely that additional states will consider legalizing cannabis in 2026.

INCREASED RISK OF ROLLBACKS

In just four years, since 2021, [11 states have legalized adult use](#).

This increase in legalization is creating a number of challenges, including increased exposure to secondhand cannabis smoke and increased pressure by the cannabis industry to expand indoor spaces where people can smoke and vape the products.

Unfortunately, several states including **California** and **Colorado** have [weakened their smokefree laws](#) with exemptions to allow local jurisdictions to permit smoking and vaping cannabis in certain indoor environments. We expect to see more of this legislation in 2026 at the state level, and of local jurisdictions considering taking advantage of their unfortunate ability to expand where smoking is allowed indoors.

WEAKENING PROTECTIONS

In 2025, [California implemented AB1775](#), which allows cities and counties to permit cannabis retailers to operate as restaurants and cafes, where events are hosted, food may be served, and workers are exposed to secondhand smoke on the job. Cannabis hospitality venues as permitted by AB1775 are now open in Coachella, National City, Cotati, and West Hollywood, while additional communities including Oakland, Sacramento, and Santa Cruz County have decided to allow smoking inside cannabis lounges, but they do not

currently permit the food and events components.

This year also saw **New York** introduce a bill whose language mirrors California's new law and the **Massachusetts** Cannabis Control Commission will vote in December [on regulations for cannabis consumption venues](#) that are

even more permissive and problematic, which could allow smoking in cannabis lounges not only at cannabis retailers, but they could also be “located within an existing Non-Cannabis Entity,” meaning that a cannabis smoking lounge could potentially be inside a restaurant, bookstore, theater, yoga studio, or any other venue.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Rolling back longstanding, popular smokefree laws to allow marijuana smoking indoors not only increases secondhand

smoke exposure among workers, patrons, and people in adjacent buildings, it also creates and exacerbates significant health consequences. After decades of progress at expanding smokefree protections and reducing disparities, we do not want to see backwards movement where more people are breathing toxic smoke-filled air inside cannabis retailers, lounges, and hospitality venues. **There is also the real concern that these rollbacks could renormalize smoking and vaping in indoor environments**, as well as create a new class of workers who are forced to breathe secondhand smoke on the job again, after decades of having clean indoor air and healthier worksites.

CANNABIS USE RATES RISING SWIFTLY

Recent research highlights the growing concern around the impact of cannabis on public health. Dr. Jonathan Caulkins with Carnegie Mellon University joined ANRF's Marijuana and Secondhand Smoke Office Hours in September to discuss his research on the [increase in cannabis use rates in the U.S. over the last 40 years](#). The research found that people in the U.S. are using cannabis more frequently

CANNABIS FACTS

SECONDHAND CANNABIS SMOKE CONTAINS MANY OF THE SAME TOXIC AND CANCER-CAUSING CHEMICALS FOUND IN TOBACCO SMOKE, AND SOME OF THOSE CHEMICALS ARE FOUND IN HIGHER AMOUNTS IN SECONDHAND CANNABIS SMOKE THAN IN SECONDHAND TOBACCO SMOKE

—“Eliminating Tobacco-Related Disease and Death: Addressing Disparities.” A Report of the Surgeon General, 2024, p. 559



CANNABIS FACTS

SECONDHAND MARIJUANA SMOKE EXPOSURE IMPAIRS BLOOD VESSEL FUNCTION

Study shows thirty minutes of exposure to secondhand marijuana smoke at levels comparable to those found in restaurants that allow cigarette smoking led to substantial IMPAIRMENT OF BLOOD VESSEL FUNCTION

ANY KIND OF SMOKE IS STILL SMOKE

ANRF AMERICAN NONSMOKERS RESISTANCE FUNDATION

DID YOU KNOW?

ZYN NICOTINE POUCHES



Philip Morris International (PMI) has been touting that new Zyn production plants in Kentucky and Colorado would create thousands of new jobs, but at what cost?

Zyn is an oral nicotine pouch that is growing in popularity and addicting a new generation to nicotine. Nicotine in any form is addictive and harmful to health. Any new jobs created as plants open do not justify the lives lost from nicotine products that are being heavily marketed to youth, young adults, and adults trying to kick the smoking habit. *Note: Zyn represents a very small fraction of revenue for PMI.*

The reality is that nearly 90% of Altria's corporate profits still come from cigarettes.



Our partner org ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) now ranks the U.S. as third worst in the world for tobacco industry policy interference. The U.S. is now ranked way down at 98 out of 100 countries—the lowest ranking ever for the U.S. in the [annual Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index](#).

STRONG SMOKEFREE AIR PROTECTIONS

MAKES COMMUNITIES HEALTHIER

STOPS BIG TOBACCO FROM ADDICTING A NEW GENERATION



BUT FIRST, SMOKEFREE AIR!

Congratulations to **Tiburon, CA**, on becoming the third community to adopt a policy to end the sale of tobacco products, and the first to pass a policy without any exemptions. Communities that have achieved strong smokefree air protections in workplaces and public places, and have taken steps to expand smokefree protections, such as including multi-unit housing and ensuring that definitions are inclusive of cigars, vaping products, and cannabis, may be well suited to working on innovative tobacco retail sales policies including ending the sale of all tobacco products. The law takes effect in December.

We support jurisdictions in taking local action to adopt policies that regulate the tobacco retail sales environment as a way to help ensure communities are free from the tobacco industry's harm and influence, including creating a healthier environment for youth and young adults, especially as the tobacco industry continues to innovate products, including nicotine pouches like Zyn and new-wave vaping products, that are designed and marketed to addict a new generation to nicotine and maintain the industry's bottom line at the expense of the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Cannabis, continued from page 7

now, with 18 million people using cannabis on a daily or near-daily basis in 2022, which is twenty times higher than in 1979. One of the study's most interesting findings is that more people in 2022 reported using cannabis frequently than people who reported drinking alcohol frequently.

PUBLIC HEALTH AT RISK

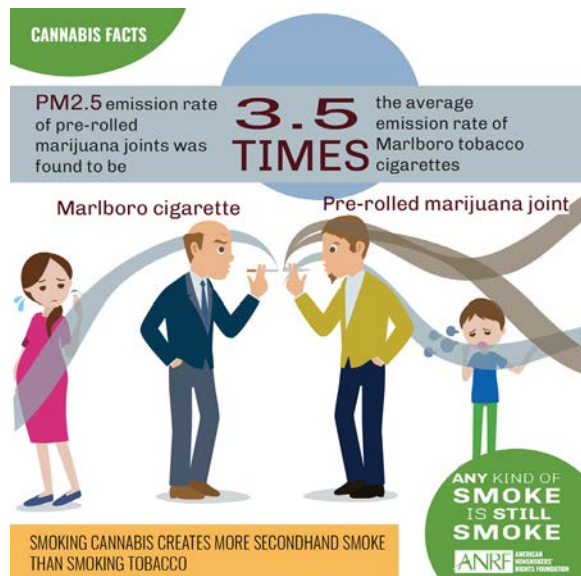
These changes raise interesting questions about how the sharp increase in cannabis use may impact the tobacco prevention environment, such as potentially changing the level of public support for smokefree air and increasing pressure on policymakers to expand spaces for cannabis

Cannabis, continued on page 9

smoking and vaping from both the public and the cannabis industry.

A study published in September from researchers at the **University of California at San Francisco** [found that inhaling cannabis increases a person's risk of asthma and COPD](#), including people who have never smoked tobacco. This significant new finding was the first time that cannabis smoking was looked at separate from tobacco smoking, and it adds to the body of research on the health risks of cannabis.

Read more about the health effects of secondhand marijuana smoke exposure at: <https://no-smoke.org/secondhand-marijuana-smoke-fact-sheet/>.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

As more states consider cannabis legalization, we will only see more pressure to weaken our hard-won protections. With more Americans using cannabis daily or near-daily, and the science confirming the respiratory health risks, the stakes are high.

Please let us know if you see activity in your community that will make exemptions for new lounges and indoor smoking. After decades of smokefree progress we cannot go backwards! ■

BIG TOBACCO'S TICKET TO THE WHITE HOUSE

For decades, Big Tobacco was public enemy #1. Thanks to efforts by public health advocates like ANR, its influence has waned and smoking rates have declined. But the tobacco industry hasn't gone away—instead the country's largest tobacco companies are stepping back into the spotlight.

The latest controversy stems from the President's privately funded ballroom. Some see it as an upgrade, others as a misplaced priority. But the most revealing detail is the donor list, which is a veritable who's who of companies with business before the White House: tech companies, crypto, the defense industry, and Big Tobacco. Among the names supporting the ballroom project are **Altria** and **Reynolds American**, the parent companies of **Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds** (makers of Marlboro and Camel cigarette brands respectively).

These are the same corporations that built fortunes on addiction and who were found guilty in federal court of lying to the public about the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke. Cigarettes remain their core business, and the staggering toll of death and disease from those products continues almost unchanged.

Tobacco and secondhand smoke still kill more than 480,000 Americans every year and sicken millions more through heart disease, cancer, stroke, and lung disease. **Tobacco costs the nation nearly \$400 billion a year in medical expenses and lost productivity.** Reducing smoking and secondhand smoke remains one of the most effective ways to prevent chronic disease and lower healthcare costs.

The tobacco industry has fought to keep smoking in workplaces, public places, and even on airplanes for decades. The tobacco industry built front groups and funded research to make people doubt the harm of smoking and secondhand smoke as a way to maximize smoking rates. That old playbook still shapes how some policymakers think today. When tobacco companies appear as donors to the White House, it's not about generosity. It's about securing access and proximity to power. It's about image and influence, about being seen as normal businesses despite the toll of millions of deaths linked to their products.

The timing could not be more striking. While the tobacco industry quietly rebrands, the federal office that once led the nation's fight against tobacco has been eliminated. The CDC Office on Smoking and Health, which tracked smoking rates and the impact of smoking and secondhand smoke, and which helped Americans quit and supported state efforts to protect workers, was quietly dissolved this year.

The East Wing project may seem far removed from public health, but it reveals how power works. **The same corporations that misled the public about tobacco and secondhand smoke are again seeking to show their access and influence.** Families who have lost loved ones to smoking and secondhand smoke know better. No ballroom built on tobacco money will make this right.

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO A SMOKEFREE HERO

After 14 years of service, **Char Day**, ANRF Program & Training Specialist, retired on August 31, 2025. She has been involved in tobacco control since 1993 and provided technical assistance and training for smokefree campaigns in many communities. Char's background in the field of tobacco advocacy work included building coalitions, smokefree air campaigns, strategic planning with Tribal sovereign nations, developing Native American tobacco curriculums, fighting the tobacco industry, educating on secondhand marijuana smoke, plus advancing issues of health equity and parity within the tobacco control movement.

Char brought her personal experience, gusto and effectiveness into her public service, working with many disparate populations to build successful, long-running coalitions and collaborative alliances. Throughout her career Char assisted with state, local, and campus-wide tobacco-free policies, promoted smokefree gaming, trained communities to assess readiness and planned campaigns, built coalitions and evaluated outcomes. Char developed smokefree campaign materials, smokefree policy statements, analyzed draft laws and ordinances. In her work with Tribes, she promoted ceremonial use of Tribal tobacco, consulted with diverse communities about public policy, and presented on a multitude of topics at the local, state and national level. She provided technical assistance, support and specialized training for coalitions, Tribal sovereign nations, and public health advocates working on smokefree air policies across the country.

Along with her demanding professional work, Char co-founded the Durango Latino Education Coalition in the 1990s. This group established family-friendly events such as Cinco de Mayo and tutoring programs for teens and children. A precursor to the La Plata Family Centers Coalition was the Durango Mother's Center, and Char was involved in getting that program started including serving as a coordinator. She was involved in the early days of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving group in Durango. In 1997, Char was awarded the Durango Area Chamber Resort Association's (now Durango Chamber) award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community, the 1997 El Pomar Award for Excellence, and, she is the recipient of Leadership La Plata's Barbara Conrad Leadership Award.



CHANGE MAKER: CHAR DAY



See a
video
about
Char



In 2021, Char was honored at the Southwest Colorado Women in Business celebration with their Nonprofit Leadership award. Scan QR code above to see a video about Char and her passion for advocating for healthier communities. ANR will certainly miss Char's incandescent energy. We wish Char a happy and fulfilling retirement!

SMOKEFREE MUSIC CITIES

ON THE GROUND IN TN

Momentum continues to build in Tennessee as the Smokefree Music Cities initiative expands beyond Nashville. Musicians and community partners in Knoxville, Murfreesboro, Clinton, and Gallatin are advancing efforts to protect workers and modernize nightlife, signaling growing appetite for smokefree bars and venues statewide. Local musician and ANR Consultant Jamie Kent was even spotted in Knoxville in front of a billboard proclaiming, “More Smoky Mountains, less smoky bars”, capturing the spirit of a movement that is both serious and joyful.

Across the state, new coalitions are forming, council conversations are underway, and legislators are stepping up in support. Knoxville advocates are positioning a smokefree ordinance with the incoming city council early in the new year; Murfreesboro has launched an active ad hoc committee with strong cross-sector participation and state-level backing; and Gallatin/Clinton are both positioned to see first readings of ordinances in December and January. The overall trajectory is clear: Tennessee cities are moving from interest to action, building a coordinated, musician-led movement toward a Smokefree Tennessee. The only question now is which city will lead the chorus next.



THUMBS UP | DOWN

Thumbs up to the new **Happy Valley Casino** in State College, PA, for announcing that it will open with a smokefree policy, protecting the health of patrons and employees.

Thumbs up to **Princess Cruises** for debuting their Star Princess Cruise with an all-new non-smoking casino, which Princess CCO said was added because they recognized how well the non-smoking casinos are doing on other ships.

Thumbs down to nicotine pouch maker **Zyn** (part of **Philip Morris/Altria**). These popular oral nicotine pouches can cause fatal poisoning if swallowed by children and have led to a surge in calls to poison control centers. With high nicotine doses, these pouches pose serious health dangers and addiction risks, as well as environmental concerns. The tobacco industry continues targeting youth by promoting these products, leading to them now being the second most popular tobacco product among young people.



SMOKEFREE MUSIC CITIES

SMOKEFREEMUSICCITIES.ORG

I can in fact confirm that smoke belongs in a chimney, and not inside a bar. That's one of the first things I look for when reviewing the Naughty List.

SANTA CLAUS [NORTH POLE]



Can you imagine travel on a smoky airplane?

Why are people still working in secondhand smoke?

Stand With Us! Give Today
no-smoke.org/donate

ANR AMERICANS FOR NON-SMOKERS RIGHTS FOUNDATION



CEASE ROUNDTABLE MEETING

CASINO EMPLOYEES AGAINST SMOKING EFFECTS (CEASE) SHARE STORIES WITH BREATHE FREE PA COALITION

On October 23, ANR Foundation, along with partners, convened a powerful **Breathe Free PA Media Roundtable**, bringing together **CEASE** workers, UAW leadership, public health partners, and members of the media for an open conversation about the realities of working in smoke-filled casino environments. The stories shared were deeply human and underscored the urgent need to close exemptions in Pennsylvania’s Clean Indoor Air Act that still leave casino workers exposed.

The event reinforced both the urgency of this issue and the growing strength of the Breathe Free PA Coalition, through which we partner with organizations including the American Heart Association, Clean Air Council, Latino Connection Foundation, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Lung Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and United Auto Workers.

With the momentum generated from this convening—and the ongoing public health impact across the state—we are now focused on expanding outreach, deepening partnerships, and strengthening statewide support for HB 880. The [bill passed the health committee](#) in October.

CEASE stories shared at the roundtable:

Jonathan Cramer and **Alicia Monahan**, casino employees and CEASE PA members, described how the industry’s “points system” penalizes workers for taking time off, even in emergencies.

Jonathan: “I passed out at work after an allergic reaction to cigar smoke and was taken out on a stretcher. I still got docked points for leaving, even though I didn’t have a choice.”

Alicia Monahan shared how she passed out after inhaling smoke on the gaming floor and was seriously injured. “I passed out, fell, hit my head, and had to go to the hospital, my eyelid was hanging and needed stitches. But because of the points system, I felt pressure to go right back to work before I was even healed. It’s a terrible feeling to know your job depends on risking your health.”

Pete Naccarelli, co-founder of CEASE NJ, spoke about the need for solidarity and legislative action. “Lawmakers know this can work. And so do the casinos. To allow us to keep getting sick when smokefree could save us is ridiculous.”

Nicole Vitola, co-founder of CEASE NJ, spoke about ventilation in casinos.

“Smoking sections don’t work. There’s no such thing. People walk around with their cigarettes lit. Cigars are no better. One party sits down at a table with cigars and you know you’ll be sick for days.”



CEASE founders Pete Naccarelli, Lamont White, and Nicole Vitola are joined by Trevor Martindale with the American Heart Association in New Jersey.

PLANNING TODAY FOR A SMOKEFREE TOMORROW: A PERSONAL STORY

The other day, a colleague here at ANR had one of those moments that stops you in your tracks. After years of fighting alongside communities for smokefree air protections, working late nights on campaigns, and celebrating victories large and small, they suddenly realized something: they'd been so focused on the day-to-day work that they hadn't thought about their own future—or more importantly, how their personal legacy could continue supporting the cause they'd dedicated their career to.

“I've been helping support the smokefree movement for years,” they told me, “but I never really stopped to wonder about what happens after I'm gone. I'm at that point now though where I'm seriously thinking, ‘What if I could keep fighting for clean air, even then?’”

It was a powerful reminder that those of us who care deeply about this work have a unique opportunity to ensure the fight continues long after we're here to lead it ourselves.

The Reality We're Still Facing

For nearly 50 years, ANR has maintained the staff and resources to assist communities as they fight for smokefree air—even through a worldwide pandemic. But here's the truth: in 2025, 37.3% of the U.S. population still lives without strong smokefree air laws. Casino workers, musicians, gig workers, bar and restaurant staff, and people in multi-unit housing remain vulnerable to secondhand smoke exposure. If we can't push forward into the future, we face the very real risk of losing ground to Big Tobacco.

Your Legacy Can Change That

Many years ago we established the Smokefree Air Society—ANR's legacy giving program. This community is made up of individuals like you who have chosen to recognize ANR or the ANR Foundation in their wills and estate plans, or have named us as a beneficiary in retirement or insurance plans.

As Smokefree Air Society member Gail Becker shared, “I am proud to know that my legacy will support and strengthen” the fight for clean air. One of our board members, Dr. Joel Dunnington, echoed this sentiment, noting his commitment “to make the U.S. smokefree and to protect the right to breathe.”

Making your plans can help us in years to come—protecting future generations from the tobacco industry's predatory practices and the devastating health impacts of secondhand smoke.

Already have a will? Consider these options:

- Name Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights or American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation as a beneficiary in your retirement account (IRA, 401(k))
- Designate us as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy
- Include a bequest in your will—whether a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after other distributions



Smokefree Tomorrow, continued on page 14

Frequent Breathers

Can you pledge to help casino workers and those battling secondhand smoke where they live? Pay it in installments through our **Frequent Breather** program and give a little bit each month. Your gifts will help ANR stay in the fight for smokefree air!



nonsmokersrights.org/donate

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
PEOPLE POWER
NEEDED**

Smokefree Tomorrow, continued from page 13

Have you already included us in your plans? Please let us know by filling out our Statement of Intent form so we can formally recognize your generosity. If you prefer to remain anonymous, we'll absolutely respect your wishes.

Don't have a will or trust? We can suggest FreeWill, a free online resource that guides you through creating an estate plan in as little as 20 minutes. It's accessible, legally valid, and can be completed entirely online. You can use it on its own or to document your wishes before finalizing plans with an attorney. You can also easily name us by finding and connecting our name in the field where it asks for designating gifts to charity.

ANR Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; donations are tax-deductible and support education programs. ANR is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization; donations are not tax-deductible and support advocacy work. Both are fighting for the same goal: a smokefree generation, free from addiction and the health problems caused by tobacco.

Questions?

Email: heidi.wohlwend@no-smoke.org

Phone: (510) 841-3032

Your support has already given millions of people cleaner, safer air to breathe. By joining the **Smokefree Air Society**, you ensure that impact continues protecting future generations—creating a lasting legacy that truly matters.

Because the work of building a smokefree future doesn't end with us. It continues through the thoughtful planning we do today!

Professional Access Program

Perfect for:

- + Public health students
- + Professionals
- + Community partners
- + Concerned citizens seeking flexible, self-directed learning

Register Here \$199 per year / per individual



Get access to all of ANR and ANR Foundation's online resources and materials in one place!

ProAccess resources provide a variety of tools, trainings, and strategies to build capacity for building coalitions, storytelling, and worker organizing to advocate for smokefree policy adoption and implementation.

Whether you are brand new to tobacco prevention work or you're a seasoned professional who wants to learn the latest information, ProAccess is a valuable way to stay up to date on tobacco prevention issues and skills.

THANK YOU MEMBERS & DONORS

ANRF no-smoke.org/donate
ANR nonsmokersrights.org/donate

ADVOCACY CIRCLE

For donations received from July 1, 2024 – October 31, 2025

\$10,000

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Maria Azzarelli	Maggie Hopkins
Julia Baresch	Rustom Jamadar
Angela Bradbery	Jamie Kent
Holly Callahan	Kirk Kleinschmidt
Len Casey	Robert Leighninger
Sue Chin	Tricia Lew
Cindy Curran	Michelle Long
Char Day	Heather Majewski
Anthony DeLucia	Lu McCraw
Robert Dey	Joy McKinney
Sue Dillon	Chris Moyer
Dr. Joel Dunnington	Mikelle Robinson
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Angelica Garcia Villanueva	Diane Stein
Julie Gardner	Julie Van Devere
Cynthia Hallett, MPH	Erik Vidstrand
Gloria Hallett	Robert Vincelette, PhD
Pete & Harriet Hanauer	Ann Williamson
	Barry Zeeberg

SMOKEFREE AIR SOCIETY

Anonymous	Barbara Derrick	Pete & Harriet Hanauer
Gail Becker	Joel Dunnington, MD	Irene Haynie
Roman Bowser	Morley & Patricia	Edward L. Koven
Krystal Brown	Farquar	Tiffany Nichols
Richard Circuit	Herb Gross	Abigail O'Neill
Char Day	Cynthia Hallett, MPH	Ann Williamson

Impact ANR's work with a legacy gift in your will. You'll provide peace of mind for the people and communities you cherish for generations to come.

no-smoke.org/donate/ways-to-give

