

Coordinating health & health care  
for a thriving Kansas



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## **SENATE WAYS AND MEANS APPROVES STATEWIDE SMOKING BAN**

The Senate Ways and Means Committee of the Kansas legislature today approved a statewide smoking ban for Kansas. The alternative to the statewide ban would have been a referendum allowing the decision about whether to restrict smoking in public places to be made on a county-by-county basis.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority strongly supported a statewide smoking restriction as part of its 21 health reform recommendations this year. As outlined in Senate Bill 660, the legislation prohibits smoking in public places and places of employment within 10 feet of entrances and exits at those venues. The bill also allows discretion for local governments to enact more restrictive provisions than those provided for by the state. The smoking ban recommendation falls under the KHPA's goal to improve health behaviors in families and communities, under priority 2 of the agency's proposed reforms.

“Tobacco-related illness generates nearly \$930 million in health care costs every year in Kansas; \$196 million of that amount is within the Medicaid program alone. But the monetary cost is not the biggest price we pay - each year, 4,000 of our fellow Kansans die from the use of tobacco. Considering that the implementation of the ban will be of virtually no cost to the State, the Senate Ways and Means Committee has shown a great deal of foresight in planning for a healthy Kansas. We commend Senator Wysong and Senator Kelly for their important work on this issue.”

For more information about the KHPA tobacco reform and the other health reform recommendations, please visit the health reform portion of the agency's website at: <http://www.khpa.ks.gov/HealthReformHome.htm>

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