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Health Leaders Urge Gary Officials to Pass Smoke-Free Ordinance Following Baton Rouge Action to Protect Casino, Bar Workers

Coalition works to protect Gary citizens from toxic secondhand smoke

GARY, IN – (November 16, 2017) – The local "[Smoke-Free in the G](#)" coalition applauded today's signing of a comprehensive smoke-free law in East Baton Rouge, La., which prohibits smoking in all city casinos, bars and private clubs. The coalition urged Gary officials to follow Baton Rouge's lead and pass its comprehensive smoke-free ordinance to protect local workers and guarantee everyone the right to breathe clean air.

Smoke-Free in the G is a broad coalition of local public health organizations and advocates spearheading the effort to protect the community from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

"The U.S. Surgeon General has reported that there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke," said Lori Latham, campaign organizer for Smoke-Free in the G. "These laws protect workers at establishments, but also improve the health of our community as a whole."

One of the most important motivations behind the Smoke-Free in the G campaign is to protect all workers including those who work at local Gary casinos. The city officials of East Baton Rouge chose to protect all of their workers including those who work at all of their casinos, as their town will soon go smoke-free. Every worker deserves to breathe clean air.

Some facts to consider:

- A recent study by Indiana University revealed that the [smoke-free law in Indianapolis reduced local heart attacks by 25 percent](#).
- Exposure to secondhand smoke causes an estimated 41,000 deaths from lung cancer and heart disease among adults each year in the United States.
- Secondhand smoke has 7,000 chemicals, including 70 that cause cancer.
- Secondhand smoke exposure in nonsmokers increases the risk of stroke 20% to 30%

About Smoke-Free in the G

Smoke-Free in the G is a broad coalition of organizations spearheading the effort to protect our community from the dangers of secondhand smoke. We are your friends and neighbors and are committed to the health and safety of our community. To join our efforts, visit <http://www.smokefreeintheg.com/>.

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