

## **Bill 060050 Smoking Ban Testimony**

Good morning Chairwoman Tasco and members of the Committee on Public Health and Human Services. For the record I am Joe Mahoney, Executive Vice President of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce (GPCC). Joining me today at the witness table is someone I know you all know well. Denise H. Earley, Director of Public Policy for the GPCC. We are pleased to testify in support of Bill 060050, banning smoking in public places.

Almost one year ago to the day (March 7, 2005) I testified before this body in support of a bill to ban smoking in public places. As I stated at that time, the Chamber's decision to support the smoking ban was not entered into lightly. Several years ago the Chamber actively opposed the idea of regulating smoking based upon the costs that that legislation would have on the hospitality industry. This legislation is different. Since there are very few exceptions--only for lodging and specialty tobacco establishments, the bill before us now puts all restaurant and tavern owners on a level playing field.

Statistics are now available to disavow the predictions of doom and gloom of several years ago. New York provides us with a stunning example. In a report issued by the New York City government agencies one year after the smoking ban was instituted, business tax receipts in restaurants and bars were up 8.7%. Employment had also increased by more than 10,000 jobs. In fact, the number of bars in the state has increased by 3.5% from April 2002 to May 2004.

In the 2004 Zagat New York City Restaurant Survey, 23% of respondents said they are eating out more often because of the smoking ban while only 4% indicated that they are eating out less.

In every battle for clean indoor air, tobacco interests argue that clean indoor air will hurt business in restaurants and bars. In every study released after clean indoor air legislation goes into effect, data shows the opposite to be true. Rhode Island is the latest state to release figures. From March through November 2005 (when the smokefree law

first took effect), sales tax collections on meals and beverages rose 8.2 percent over the same period in the prior year.

California, Delaware, Florida, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Montana, Vermont, Washington, New Jersey—and the District of Columbia have adopted comprehensive smokefree workplace legislation for workers, including restaurant and bar workers. In our neighboring state of New Jersey the ban is effective April 15, 2006.

Colorado, Utah, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Maryland, Illinois, Minnesota and New Hampshire are considering smokefree decisions in the coming weeks. In November, Ohio and Arizona will hold ballot initiatives where voters will decide.

An analysis by the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research, released in June 2004, found that restaurant sales were up 7 percent one year after the state's smoke free law, which made all public places and restaurants 100% smokefree, took effect in 2003.

In major cities like Dallas, Texas and Lexington, Kentucky bar and restaurant businesses have remained stable since the implementation of their smoke free legislation in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

As "America's Next Great City" it is about time that Philadelphia stepped up to the plate, particularly as a city rich with medical and pharmaceutical history.

The world is changing and internationally the movement to ban or restrict smoking in public places is well underway.

Ireland went smoke free in 2004, and on a recent visit my wife and I personally witnessed the robust pub business despite the ban;

In the United Kingdom last year the government published a bill banning smoking in enclosed public places but private clubs and pubs where no food is served were exempt; As a matter of fact, Scotland's ban went into effect yesterday with both Northern Ireland and England expected to follow next year.

Smoking in public places is banned in Havana, Cuba as of February 2005;

Similar bans are in effect in Italy, Spain Australia, South Korea, Norway and a host of other countries.

Finally, the health deterioration directly linked to smoking is staggering. Cigarette smoking has long been identified as a major cause of preventable death and has been factored into underwriting decisions and individual risk ratings. **The 2004 Surgeon General's Report reiterates that over 400,000 Americans die each year as a result of cigarette smoking and that, on average, a smoker loses about 12 –13 years of life expectancy.**

And the effects of secondhand tobacco smoke cost the U.S. economy nearly \$10 billion a year, ranging from medical bills to lost hours of work, according to a recent study commissioned by insurance actuaries.

Before ending my prepared testimony on Bill 060050, I would like to inform you that I also testified before the House Health and Human Services Committee in October on House Bill 1489, proposing a state-wide ban on smoking in public places.

Given the above economic, health and financial implications directly associated with smoking, I urge you to pass Bill 060050.

Thank you for this opportunity.