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3 **Title:** Reducing Second-Hand Smoke in Apartments  
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5 **Introduced by:** Adnan Hussain, for the Medical Student Section  
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7 **Original Authors:** Adnan Hussain, Samuel W. Terman, Brian Rutledge, and Ami  
8 Badami  
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10 **Referred to:** Reference Committee D  
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12 **House Action:**

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15 **Whereas, tobacco smoke is a known and preventable cause of morbidity**  
16 **and mortality, and**

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18 **Whereas, tobacco use is responsible for approximately 440,000 deaths**  
19 **annually<sup>1</sup>, and**

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21 **Whereas, 49,000 of those deaths are through second hand smoke<sup>2</sup>, and**

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23 **Whereas, through the Doctor Ron Davis Smoke Free Air Law, Michigan**  
24 **has already restricted smoking in public places and food service**  
25 **establishments, and**

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27 **Whereas, hospitals have implemented smoke free campuses to promote**  
28 **better health, and**

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30 **Whereas, people living in apartment building complexes are especially**  
31 **vulnerable to secondhand smoke, and**

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33 **Whereas, air filtration systems do not adequately reduce secondhand**  
34 **smoke exposure in apartment buildings since smoke particles are extremely**  
35 **small<sup>3</sup>, and**

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37 **Whereas, children in apartment buildings are subjected to secondhand**  
38 **smoke from neighbors, and**

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40 **Whereas, secondhand smoke for pregnant mothers increases the risk of**  
41 **birth defects, low birth weight babies, and**

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43 **Whereas, children exposed to secondhand smoke have higher rates of**  
44 **ear infections, asthma, bronchitis, and various other significant medical**  
45 **problems, and**

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47 **Whereas, Americans living below the federal poverty level are 1.6 times**  
48 **as likely to smoke as are persons at or above this level, with high rates of**  
49 **smoking in section 8 housing<sup>4</sup>, and**

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**Whereas, an outright ban on smoking in all apartment buildings and section 8 housing would create an unfair burden for smokers below the poverty line and could lead to more tenants smoking in “smoke-free” apartments; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED: That MSMS supports legislation that would create incentives for landlords to have a geographically distinct apartment complex(es) deemed “smoke-free”; and be it further**

**RESOLVED: That MSMS encourage its members to inform patients who live in multi-unit housing with children the risks of secondhand smoke and the indirect exposure occurring in multiunit housing.**

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**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**

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<sup>1</sup>CDC (2011) “Second Hand Smoke” Available at [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/secondhand\\_smoke/general\\_facts/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/general_facts/index.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Roswell Park Cancer Institute (2011) “Secondhand Smoke Poses Hazards to Apartment Residents” Available at <http://www.roswellpark.org/media/news/secondhand-smoke-poses-hazards-apartment-residents>

<sup>4</sup> Jonathan P. Winickoff, M.D., M.P.H., Mark Gottlieb, J.D., and Michelle M. Mello, J.D., Ph.D. (2010). Regulation of Smoking in Public Housing. *The New England Journal of Medicine*. 362:2319-2325