

A RESOLUTION urging the establishment of a totally voluntary civic health initiative designed to decrease the incidence of smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke.

WHEREAS, even with dramatic improvements in recent years, Kentucky still has one of the nation's highest smoking rates with more than 26 percent of adults who smoke, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the harmful effects of smoking are well-known in this Commonwealth. More people die of lung cancer in Kentucky than in any other state, and the lung cancer rates among both men and women are the highest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, approximately 2.5 million nonsmokers have died secondhand smoke-related health problems since 1964. The CDC estimates that, each year from 2005-2009, there were about 34,000 heart disease deaths and 7,300 lung cancer deaths that were attributed to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, radon is another significant contributor of lung cancer deaths. This body urges Kentuckians to check their homes for radon and to equip their homes with radon detectors; and

WHEREAS, the children of the great Commonwealth of Kentucky need adults who are conscious of preventable health initiatives, and this Honorable Body urges smokers to think about how their decisions affect the people around them; and

WHEREAS, with 32.5 percent of Kentucky's local communities covered by no-smoking laws, the Commonwealth is moving in the right direction, but more needs to be done; and

WHEREAS, citizens should seize the opportunity to take part in a voluntary civic health initiative aimed at minimizing smoking and secondhand smoke exposure. This could be accomplished by collaborating with friends and businesses to promote voluntary no-smoking programs that would encourage others not to smoke in buildings or in public places, not to smoke in cars with passengers, not to smoke at home when others are

present, to put cigarette trash in proper receptacles, and place signs in businesses to clearly establish smoke-free zones; and

WHEREAS, citizens are encouraged to seek assistance from community and health professionals as they make decisions affecting their health and the health of others; and

WHEREAS, through a voluntary initiative and a greater focus by smokers on common etiquette, the effects of secondhand smoke can be diminished and the public health of nonsmoking Kentuckians can be improved;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The Senate hereby urges Kentuckians to think about the health of others when they choose to smoke and take part in a voluntary civic health initiative aimed at minimizing smoking and secondhand smoke exposure.

➔Section 2. The Senate acknowledges the public health concerns created by secondhand smoke and urges Kentuckians to be aware of nonsmokers when they smoke inside public places or inside their cars when passengers are present.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40621, and to all of Kentucky's local newspapers.