

July 18, 2012

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Dan Frankel
SUBJECT: Legislation amending Clean Indoor Air Act to allow for stronger local ordinances

In the near future I will introduce legislation to amend the Clean Indoor Air Act to remove the language that prohibits local governments from enacting and enforcing their own stronger smoking bans. I hope you will join me in support of this very important measure.

As you know, the Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits counties like Erie and Allegheny, and all local governments across the state, from enacting strong legislation to protect their citizens' health in public places. This pre-emption of local control removes the rights of local communities to protect their employees' health and mitigate adverse economic impacts on local bars and restaurants that face an uneven playing ground.

Our colleague, Representative Scavello, introduced legislation earlier this Session that seeks to close the loopholes allowing smoking in certain workplaces statewide. That bill would also remove local pre-emption. While I fully support and am a co-sponsor of Rep. Scavello's bill, HB 824, I believe it is also helpful to be able to separate the issues. My bill's aim is solely to allow local municipalities across the state to close the loopholes in their own communities if they choose.

Please contact Carrie Goodyear in my office via email (cgoodyea@pahouse.net) or phone (717.705.1875) to add your support.

Members who sponsored this same bill last session:

Frankel, Carroll, Caltagirone, DeLuca, Geist, Gibbons, Grove, Josephs, Mundy, Murt, Mustio, Roebuck, and Swanger

Members who have co-sponsored Rep. Scavello's HB 824:

Scavello, Frankel, Boyd, Dom Costa, J. Evans, Everett, Gingrich, Murt, Swanger, Vulakovich and Youngblood