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**Testimony of Mubashir Mumtaz, MD, FACS, FACC
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**before the House Health Committee
regarding House Bill 682 (amending the Clean Indoor Air Act)**

**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
June 15, 2015**

Chairman Baker, Chairman Fabrizio, and members of the House Health Committee.

My name is Dr. Mubashir Mumtaz. I am the Chief of Cardiovascular and thoracic Surgery with PinnacleHealth CardioVascular Institute and a volunteer for the American Heart Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 682, which will strengthen the state's clean indoor air law.

My testimony will focus on my experience as a heart surgeon and the research that has been done showing that secondhand smoke, can be very dangerous to one's health.

It is a fact that tobacco smoke contains thousands of chemicals which could lead to various health problems including cancer. Exposure to these chemicals has an immediate and long term adverse impact on the cardiovascular system, damaging blood vessels, making blood more likely to clot, and increasing the risk for heart attack and stroke.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, secondhand smoke can cause heart disease, stroke and lung cancer. Exposure to secondhand smoke For example, damages the lining of the blood vessels and causes blood platelets to become stickier. These changes can result in heart attack stroke and blockages in other areas of the body.

As a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon, I personally see the damage that smoking and second hand smoke has on the human body in the operating room where I see direct evidence of heart and lung damage. This subsequently causes significant problems during post-operative recovery of patients. This is one risk factor of heart disease which is 100 percent preventable and that we can and must control.

Every citizen of Pennsylvania should have the opportunity to work or enjoy leisure activities in a clean-air environment without having to be forced to withstand the harmful effects of second hand smoke. No one should have to choose between their health and their paycheck. By supporting this law, we stand up for all Pennsylvania workers and innocent citizens who do not choose to smoke but are forced to withstand the affects of being in a smoking environment.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.