

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR SAMPLE #3

*The strongest letters to the editor explain who you are and why you care about smoke-free workplaces and the dangers of secondhand smoke. The letter can come from a member of the public health or business communities, but often the most influential letters are submitted by community members who simply care about their health and that of their friends and families.*

- *State why this issue is important to you.*
- *Include personal stories: Have you been affected by secondhand smoke? Has the law that exists today affected you? If all workplaces were smoke-free, would you go out to hear music in bars again? Are there still indoor public events that are so smoky that you won't take your kids there? Is your own workplace smoke-free? Whatever your story is, share it!*
- *Share your letter with friends, family and co-workers and encourage them to submit their own.*
- *Use this letter as an example only.*

[DATE]

To the editor-

We have been hearing a lot of grim financial news lately, pushing rising health care costs to the forefront of my mind. We all seem to be waiting for a grand idea to come rescue us from this cycle of high premiums, low coverage, and increasing health problems.

Now, we read in the news that by simply enacting smoke-free policies we can dramatically reduce heart attack hospitalizations. Certainly, the other heart, lung and cancer diseases caused by secondhand smoke exposure are also impacted. It only makes good sense to protect the public from exposure to the toxins in tobacco smoke.

If our legislators are looking for ways to cut costs and protect citizens, expanding smoke-free policies to cover all workplaces is a good place to start. After all, everyone pays when it comes to secondhand smoke.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Contact Information]