



## GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION

# RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF MICHIGAN HOUSE BILL No. 5159

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**WHEREAS**, Michigan House Bill No. 5159 seeks to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled the State of Michigan's "Public Health Code", to allow the owner, operator, manager, or person in control of a public place (that is also a commercial property) or food service establishment to allow smoking in an area of the property or food service establishment that is less than 50% enclosed;

**WHEREAS**, tobacco use is the leading cause of death in the United States, causing more than 443,000 deaths each year (more than AIDS, alcohol, drug abuse, car crashes, murders, and fires – combined);

**WHEREAS**, the Genesee County, Michigan mortality rate for chronic lower respiratory diseases (often caused by smoking and/or tobacco use) has increased 25.9% from 2009 – 2011;

**WHEREAS**, the smoking rate in Genesee County is 28.1%, significantly higher than the United States smoking rate of 19.3%;

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Flint Health Coalition is a nonprofit Michigan corporation whose mission is to improve the health status of the residents of Genesee County and to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of the health care system in Genesee County;

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Flint Health Coalition's strategic business plan has a focus area of Health Improvement with a goal to promote and advocate for policies and practices at multiple levels of society that engage our community's residents in healthy behaviors;


**WHEREAS**, the Greater Flint Health Coalition seeks to promote and support the adoption of non-smoking environments, as well as improvements in the physical environment and community safety that will support the practice of healthy behaviors;

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Flint Health Coalition's 2010 County Health Rankings Action Plan identified the creation and support of smoke-free workplaces, campuses, and environments as a strategy to be implemented to improve health behaviors in Genesee County;

**WHEREAS**, Michigan House Bill No. 5159 would amend the Michigan Public Health Code to allow smoking in public places, commercial properties, and/or food service establishments that are less than 50% enclosed, as a result creating circumstances and environments that will negatively impact health behaviors and health status among residents, while exposing non-smoking residents to the scientifically documented harmful side-effects of second hand smoke;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Greater Flint Health Coalition, composed of representatives and leadership from Genesee County's hospitals, physicians, healthcare providers, health insurers, business, government, educators and schools, organized labor, and community residents, strongly opposes Michigan House Bill No. 5159 as it would: create conditions that create unhealthy environments, encourage unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, and significantly increase the likelihood of harm, disease, and death among residents due to the scientifically documented harmful side-effects of smoking and exposure to second hand smoke.

**THIS RESOLUTION** has been adopted effective January 13, 2014.

  
Peter Levine, Secretary