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**CAMPAIGN FOR A HEALTHY AND RESPONSIBLE TENNESSEE, PARTNERS APPLAUD GOVERNOR BREDESEN FOR HIS PROPOSED SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE INITIATIVE**

NASHVILLE, TN - CHART and its partners applaud Governor Bredesen for proposing to make all workplaces smoke-free as outlined in his speech to the Tennessee Press Association on Thursday night.

“CHART and our many partners are optimistic that with Governor Bredesen’s leadership on this issue, all workplaces in Tennessee can become smoke-free and eliminate the harmful effects of secondhand smoke,” said Nathan James, CHART board president.

Secondhand smoke is the third most preventable cause of death in the United States, responsible for causing 35,000 to 45,000 deaths each year from heart disease and 3,000 more deaths from lung cancer. In Tennessee alone, the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids estimates that secondhand smoke causes between 980 and 1,740 deaths per year.

Helping curb these numbers would result in a more productive work force and lower health care costs for all. “Public support has been growing for this issue over the last couple of years as more and more states have made their workplaces smoke-free,” said James. “Tennesseans are ready for this legislation because they’ve been calling for it for years.” In fact the public support for this issue is clear, according to a poll conducted in October 2006 by the American Cancer Society, more than 73 percent of Tennessee voters indicated they support a smoke-free law that would make all workplaces, including restaurants and bars, smoke-free.

At a press conference Friday, CHART was joined by dozens of partner organizations representing tens of thousands of citizens across the state in calling for the passage of smoke-free workplace legislation. For a complete list of partners and more information about this campaign, visit [www.smokefreetn.org](http://www.smokefreetn.org).

“It shows just how pressing this issue has become when so many diverse organizations have stepped up to lend their expertise to fight the effects of secondhand smoke in Tennessee,” said Shelby Logsdon, CHART Executive Director.

It is time to make all workplaces smoke-free in Tennessee. Governor Bredesen’s leadership on this issue will provide Tennesseans with a healthier way of life, cut health care costs and increase the productivity of Tennessee’s work force.

The Campaign for a Healthy and Responsible Tennessee (CHART), is the statewide coalition of more than 50 partner organizations and thousands of individuals working to protect Tennesseans from the health effects of tobacco use through public education and mobilization. More information about CHART can be found at [www.tnchart.org](http://www.tnchart.org)

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