Passing a Local Resolution Is as Easy as 1-2-3

Local control is at the heart of the broader goal of educating the public about the health effects caused by secondhand smoke and changing attitudes regarding smoking in ways that harm other people. With few exceptions, local control measures to protect the public from secondhand smoke are more effective, accompanied by greater community education, support and compliance and are better enforced than statewide legislation. There is much work to be done across the state in order for the tobacco control community to successfully advance local control legislation. Supporters of this initiative believe that the right to pass smoking laws to protect the health of their residents lies in their hands.

One of the most important steps to move local control forward with Iowa legislators is to demonstrate support for this issue in their district. Passage of local resolutions is key and exhibits broad support from cities and counties throughout the state. Local resolutions validate support of a diverse group of organizations and agencies for restoring local control.

Here is what you can do to help us make smoke-free policies a reality in Iowa:

1. **Get buy-in from your supporters.**
   Review the sample resolution with your coalition(s). Make sure they understand what you are asking the local city council, board of health or county to pass. Please remember resolutions are non-binding; however, they are often used to educate and raise awareness about issues. The sample resolution does not state or imply that the city or other agency will pass a smoke-free ordinance. Local resolutions represent grassroots democracy at its finest. They give ordinary citizens the opportunity to address pressing issues right in their own community and in the process increase awareness about the health dangers and financial burdens of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

2. **Find a champion to introduce your resolution.**
   Identify a member of the city council, county/city board of health or county board of supervisors to be the potential champion on this issue. This is essential. Without an elected official who will actually take ownership of the issue and make it his or her cause, it will be difficult to successfully pass a resolution. You can identify likely champions by investigating officials’ voting records and asking your coalition partners if they have any allies on the city council or county board of supervisors. After you have identified a potential champion, contact the Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance (ITPA) for guidance on next steps and resources. The next steps will include setting up a meeting with the potential champion, making a strong case for why the resolution is important and why the city or county should pass it, and asking your champion to introduce the resolution to the council or board for a vote. Local media will play a big role in educating the public. ITPA can assist you in creating a media plan for your campaign.

3. **Celebrate your success.**
   After successfully passing resolutions in your local communities, forward the resolution to your local state legislators and to Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance.

   **For more information contact the Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance at 515.681.1865**

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