A Resolution

Supporting the Adoption of Ordinances
Prohibiting Smoking in Public Places in the State of South Carolina

Whereas, studies have shown that seventy-two percent of African Americans are exposed to secondhand smoke, compared to 50 percent of whites, and 45 percent of Mexican Americans; and

Whereas, people of color have higher rates of occupational exposure to secondhand smoke, due in part, to the fact that people of color are disproportionately employed in laborer and factory jobs; and

Whereas, African Americans (78.9%) are significantly less likely to be covered by any health insurance than the national average (83.3%); and

Whereas, each year, secondhand smoke is associated with more than 35,000 deaths from heart disease, 3,000 lung cancer deaths, nasal sinus cancer, middle ear infections, aggravation of asthma and chronic respiratory symptoms in children, low birth weight, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS); and

Whereas, an analysis of municipal tobacco control ordinances in the United States found that communities with significant numbers of people of color are less likely to have any kind of municipal tobacco control ordinance in place when compared to communities with fewer people of color; and

Whereas, eighty-one percent of African Americans support 100% smoke-free laws in workplaces and restaurants; and

Whereas, eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is the only way to fully protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke exposure. Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

Therefore, be it Resolved, that in the interest of promoting social justice and improving the health of all workers, particularly disproportionately impacted people of color, the South Carolina State Conference, NAACP urges county and municipal governments to enact smoke-free ordinances that prohibit indoor smoking in workplaces and other indoor locations accessible to the public.
Further Resolved, that the South Carolina State Conference, NAACP through its branches and local Health Committees will support initiatives to ban smoking in public places.

Finally Resolved, that NAACP local Units and local Health Committees continue the Association’s efforts to curb participation in cigarette smoking through youth awareness initiatives and direct appeals to individuals and groups.

Signed:

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South Carolina State Conference
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People