

## ACC Chapters Take on Tobacco

Across the US, 28 states have passed some sort of public smoking ban. Although each ban includes different coverage areas and exemptions, smoke-free bills do help limit secondhand smoke, which is linked to heart attack and stroke. Recently, several ACC chapters have been actively involved in state-based advocacy efforts to pass smoke-free legislation.

### Alabama

The Alabama Legislature considered a bill (S.B. 229) that would have banned smoking in restaurants, stores, malls and most other public indoor places. Although it passed in the state Senate, the bill encountered greater difficulties in the state House, despite the advocacy efforts of the Alabama Chapter. Unfortunately, stall tactics by lawmakers opposed to the bill kept it from being voted on during the last day of the session. The bill's sponsor, state Sen. Vivian Davis Figures (D-Mobile), said she will try to pass a smoke-free bill again next session. The bill's passage is "a matter of life and death," said Chapter President **Mike Honan, M.D., F.A.C.C.**

### Michigan

The struggle to pass smoke-free legislation in Michigan continues with the state House and Senate unable to agree on an exemption for casinos. The Senate passed legislation that bans smoking in all workplaces, but the House version includes several exemptions for casinos, tobacco shops, bingo halls and horse tracks. The two chambers must reach agreement for the legislation to move forward. The Michigan Chapter recently supported efforts to pass the smoke-free bill by placing phone calls to state lawmakers and by holding their first "Cardiology Day at the Capitol" event to advocate for the bill's passage. More than 20 cardiovascular specialists attended

the event. If the chambers reach an agreement, Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D) has said she will sign the bill.

### Ohio

Ohio successfully passed a ballot initiative banning smoking in public places and places of employment in 2006, but the initiative has been under attack since its passage. A number of groups want to limit the ban's scope and lift the ban on cigar bars, members-only clubs and other locations. To fight the exemptions, the Ohio Chapter held its first state legislative day in eight years this past May. The lobby day resulted in meetings with 30 lawmakers to urge them to support the blanket ban. In June, Ohio's Supreme Court refused to hear a case brought by members-only clubs, limiting the group's ability to craft an exemption to the smoking ban in the future.

### Other Successes

Three other states have successfully adopted smoke-free legislation in 2008. On June 13 **Pennsylvania** Gov. Ed Rendell (D) signed into law smoke-free legislation that bans smoking in all public indoor buildings, with exceptions for some bars, private clubs and casinos. **Nebraska** also has enacted legislation to make smoke-free all workplaces, including restaurants, bars and gaming facilities, effective June 1, 2009. Gov. Dave Heineman (R) signed the bill, which was approved by a veto-proof margin in Nebraska's unicameral legislature. Meanwhile, in April, **Iowa** enacted a law to make most workplaces, restaurants and bars smoke-free. The law took effect July 1.

**Considering a Legislative Lobby Day? Contact Justin Beland at [jbeland@acc.org](mailto:jbeland@acc.org).**



## ACC Sets Up National Funding Proposal for Chapters

**D**uring ACC.08 in Chicago, Chapter Affairs rolled out the National Funding Proposal for Chapters. The College has created this program to help strengthen Chapters through funding special projects in 2008 and 2009. The Board of Trustees and **Jack Lewin, M.D., ACC's CEO**, worked hard during the ACC resource reallocation to secure these funds during 2008 to assist Chapter development.

The Chapters of the College play a fundamental role in formulating and achieving ACC's strategic direction, and these grants will serve to support important Chapter work. The National Funding Proposal now includes funding for new ideas that demonstrate Chapter potential and meet Chapter needs, such as:

### Advocacy activities

- State Capitol legislative days
- Awareness campaigns
- "Cardiologist for a Day" events

### General activities

- Chapter development programs
- Membership drives
- Networking events

### Fiscal management tools

- Management tools
- Strategic Planning Sessions

These funds will help to strengthen Chapters and the College as a whole and create more opportunities for ACC members. Please contact your Chapter President with any new ideas you have for Chapter programs. ACC National looks forward to working with the Chapters to foster success in the Chapter, the College and among members and patients everywhere.

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