



Mark Parkinson, Governor
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

June 7, 2010

Lawrence City Commissioners
First Floor, City Hall
6 East 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Lawrence City Commissioners,

In 2004, the City of Lawrence had the foresight to become one of the first cities in Kansas to recognize the harmful effects of secondhand smoke and initiate a plan to protect its citizens. In fact, you were the first governing body in Kansas to pass a comprehensive ordinance outlining where smoking could and could not occur. That decision demonstrates your remarkable dedication to your community and your responsiveness to protect the health of Lawrence families. You were pioneers in a field which has seen a total of 39 communities develop ordinances, setting the stage for eventual passage of a statewide law aimed at extending a degree of smoke-free protection to citizens throughout the state.

The Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act, which was signed into law in May, is a giant leap forward for public health in Kansas. Perhaps one of the most important aspects about this new law is that it allows local jurisdictions, such as the City of Lawrence, to maintain stronger policies than that required by state law. There is no requirement for Lawrence to lower its standards. As you are aware, the stronger the protection, the more benefits your community will reap – among others, reducing the rate of heart attacks, strokes and cancer.

Tobacco use and exposure remains the number one *preventable* cause of death in Kansas. Six years ago you recognized a need to protect your citizens and took action to do so. I urge you to keep that same level of protection and maintain all elements of your current clean indoor air ordinance that are stricter than the state law. Thank you for your ongoing leadership in promoting the health of Kansans.

Sincerely,

Roderick L. Bremby
Secretary
Kansas Department of Health and Environment