

Could A Smoke Free Workplace Be Next?

By Scott Sarvay

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FORT WAYNE, Ind. (Indiana's NewsCenter) - An organization of advocacy groups and residents are pushing for legislation to ban smoking in workplaces across Indiana.

The campaign hosted a town hall meeting last night to educate those in attendance of the dangers of smoking and the cost to employers and taxpayers.

They say secondhand smoke costs the country \$6 billion a year in health care expenses.

Tim Filler from the Smoke free Indiana Campaign says, "We're not trying to regulate smoking because we don't like smokers, we're not trying to do that. The more people understand that secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard and not merely a nuisance, then they'll understand the reason for why there should be a law that makes workplaces smoke free."

Panelists at last night's meeting included County Commissioner Nelson Peters, Parkview Health CEO Mike Packnett and Health Commissioner Deborah McMahan.