

NEWS RELEASE

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MMA PHYSICIANS CONGRATULATE MANKATO ON SMOKE-FREE VOTE

Minneapolis - The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), representing more than 10,000 physicians in Minnesota, congratulates Mankato voters on their overwhelming support of smoke-free workplaces.

Mankato bars and restaurants have been smoke-free since July 1, 2006, but the referendum vote on Tuesday could have signaled the end of a policy that protects workers from secondhand smoke, which causes cancer and heart disease. Instead, the referendum passed by a 69 percent to 31 percent margin.

“In this decisive vote, Mankato citizens supported every worker’s right to breathe clean air,” said G. Richard Geier, M.D., president of the Minnesota Medical Association.

“Support for smoke-free workplaces in Mankato and in other smoke-free communities around the state shows that it’s time for Minnesota to pass a statewide smoke-free workplaces law that protects the health of all Minnesotans,” said Geier.

MMA physicians expect momentum to continue to build as other communities including Olmsted County, work toward making all workplaces smoke-free before the start of the 2007 legislative session.