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NEW YORK STATE CELEBRATES A PUBLIC HEALTH SUCCESS STORY

***Tenth Anniversary of the Clean Indoor Air Act being enacted into law
Public Health Leaders look ahead to the next ten years***

(Albany, New York) Over thirty health and tobacco control leaders from around the Capital Region and New York State gathered at the Gateway Diner in Albany, New York today to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA).

The CIAA which became effective on July 24, 2003 prohibited smoking in virtually all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. It was part of an ongoing commitment to protect workers from the dangers of secondhand smoke. The legislation was sponsored and championed by then State Assemblyman Peter Grannis and State Senator Charles Fuschillo, Jr., and signed into law by then Governor George Pataki. The legislation was also supported by the New York State Restaurant Association and numerous health care organizations.

In welcoming guests to the anniversary celebration, Judy Rightmyer, Director of the Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition said that, *"Today's anniversary is a reminder of the positive and healthy change in our communities the Clean Indoor Air Act brought. Community health is about the health of all of us, and the actions begun ten years ago today have given all of us the opportunity to live healthy lives. Going forward, preventative health programs like Clean Indoor Air, Tobacco Free Outdoors, Smoke Free Housing and Cessation Education will continue to help make the healthy choice the easy choice for everyone wherever they live, work, learn and play."*

"The passage of New York State's Clean Indoor Air Act was a historic moment for public health. In 2002, New Yorkers were needlessly exposed to deadly carcinogens resulting from tobacco smoke in bars and restaurants. It was an incredibly dangerous situation for both patrons and employees alike. The Clean Indoor Air Act changed all that and undoubtedly has saved lives from cancer," stated Donald Distasio, Executive Vice President, Eastern Division, American Cancer Society.

According to the 2006 Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, there is clear evidence of the negative health effects of secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke contributes to and causes dozens of diseases and illnesses including asthma, heart disease, respiratory tract infections and ear infections.

Following the implementation of the CIAA in 2003 there is convincing evidence that the subsequent reduction of secondhand smoke had significant health benefits. Rates of hospitalization for heart attacks were 15% lower than expected 3 ½ years after the law was implemented and it was estimated that there were approximately 3,800 fewer hospital admissions for heart attacks with a cost savings of \$56 million dollars. (source: *Juster, H. R., Loomis, B. R., Hinman, T. M., Farrelly, M. C., Hyland, A., Bauer, U. E., & Birkhead, G. S. (2007). Declines in hospital admissions for Acute Myocardial Infarction in New York following implementation of a statewide comprehensive smoking ban. American Journal of Public Health, 97(11), 2035-2039.*)

Despite the expressed fears of many bar and restaurant owners that the hospitality industry would suffer economically and lose jobs, the CIAA turned out to be a boon for business in addition to protecting the health of workers and customers.

"I believe it was the best thing that ever happened for businesses, for the customers, for everyone. I wish it happened ten years earlier," exclaimed Melissa Verrigni, Owner of the Gateway Diner.

A recent observational study conducted by the New York State Department of Health showed that compliance with CIAA by bars in the state was 99.4% and by selected restaurants 100%

"The Clean Indoor Air Act was passed ten years ago because a group of people worked tirelessly to protect people from exposure to second hand smoke. I grew up in a world where clean indoor air was the norm. It sounds unreal to think that people were allowed to smoke inside where other people were! Wouldn't it be great if the next generation grew up in a world where no tobacco marketing in stores was the norm," said Samantha Monroe, a Sophomore at Mohonasen High School.

Research in the U.S. and abroad suggests that exposure to in-store tobacco promotions is a primary cause of youth smoking. In-store tobacco ads are located to entice youth. Ads are often placed near candy and toys, and on the front of counters less than five feet in height. According to the American Journal of Public Health, weekly or more frequent exposure to retail tobacco marketing is associated with a 50 percent increase in the odds that adolescents will ever smoke.

In New York State alone, tobacco companies spend nearly half a million dollars a day to market their products in convenience stores and pharmacies. Because advertising on television, radio and billboards are banned, as well as cartoon characters, sponsorships and giveaways, stores are one of the last venues where tobacco advertising can influence youth to begin smoking.

"As we celebrate ten years of New York's landmark Clean Indoor Air Act, let's remember the countless lives we have saved, the lung disease we have prevented and the New Yorkers who have enjoyed longer, healthier lives because of it," said Jeff Seyler, President & CEO of the American Lung Association of the Northeast. *"New York State has a history of leading efforts that promote public health and we look forward to working together to ensure New York's leaders continue to implement policies and dedicate the resources necessary to reduce the toll that tobacco takes on New Yorkers."*

“Ten years ago, New York State took a big and controversial step in the fight against Big Tobacco by passing the strengthened Clean Indoor Air Act,” said Julianne Hart, New York State Government Relations Director for the American Heart Association. *“A small but vocal minority claimed this would devastate bars and restaurants and hurt their bottom line. But the bottom line is that New Yorkers are healthier thanks to the Clean Indoor Air Act. Now it is time for New York to once again take the lead to help New Yorkers fighting this addiction by adopting strong tobacco control policies.”*

For further information on the Clean Indoor Air Act and its effects on the health of all New Yorkers, please visit the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Tobacco Control Report *New York State’s Clean Indoor Air Act: Ten Years Later and Going Strong* at:

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/volume6/ciaa_2013_10_year_report.pdf

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About the New York State Tobacco Control Partners

The New York State Tobacco Control Partners are a coalition of community based programs funded through the Department of Health, Bureau of Tobacco Control. Through community action, health communication and education, and cessation interventions the partners promote community-wide changes that prevent youth smoking and help adult smokers quit. For more information, please visit TobaccoFreeNYS.org