



Capital District  
**Tobacco-Free  
Communities**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2021

CONTACT: Lauren Sears

Program Specialist, CDTFC

[lauren.sears@sphp.com](mailto:lauren.sears@sphp.com)

518-419-0815

**Capital District Tobacco-Free Communities applauds Albany County Legislature  
for passing Local Law “I”  
*Law Protects health of apartment residents and staff***

ALBANY, N.Y. – Capital District Tobacco-Free Communities (CDTFC) applauds the Albany County Legislature for passing new measures on April 12 to protect residents of multi-unit housing from the harmful effects of exposure to secondhand smoke. Local Law “I” prohibits smoking and vaping of tobacco, marijuana or any similar product in indoor common areas and within ten feet of any windows and other ventilation intake.

Eighty-one percent of homes in New York have a “smoke-free house” rule, including 37% of households in which a smoker lives.<sup>1</sup> For residents of multi-unit housing, a rule in their own unit isn’t enough to protect them from secondhand smoke.

**“Secondhand smoke migrates into units from common areas, through doorways, cracks in walls, electrical lines, plumbing and ventilation systems. Essentially, if one person smokes in the building, everyone smokes,”** said Jeanie Orr, Program Manager for CDTFC.

In addition to protecting multi-unit housing residents, the measure also protects the health of employees working in those buildings. Local Law “I” strengthens and goes beyond New York’s Clean Indoor Air Act, which prohibits smoking in workplaces, by requiring written notice and enacting civil penalties for violation.

Prohibiting smoking and vaping in common areas is a crucial step, but in order to make buildings completely smoke-free, housing providers have been adopting smoke-free policies that cover every indoor space including individual units.

In 2006, a U.S. Surgeon General’s Report concluded that there’s no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. The report further found that separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposures of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.

**“Everyone deserves to work and live in a smoke-free environment. As property owners make changes to comply with Local Law “I”, I hope they will consider making their apartments and condos**

**completely smoke-free to create healthier places for everyone working and living in their buildings,”  
said Orr.**

**About Capital District Tobacco-Free Communities** Capital District Tobacco-Free Communities (CDTFC) is a NYS Bureau of Tobacco Control grant funded program held by St. Peter’s Health Partners. CDTFC works to increase support for New York State’s tobacco-free norm through youth action and community engagement. Efforts are evidence-based, policy-driven, and cost-effective approaches that decrease youth tobacco use, motivate adult smokers to quit, and eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke. Visit [www.smokefreecapital.org](http://www.smokefreecapital.org) for more information.

#####

---

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. MMWR-Prevalence of Smokefree Home Rules- United States, 1992-1993 and 2010-2011. September 5, 2014/63(35);765-769