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## **Statewide Partnership Urges Local Governments to Enact Smoke-Free Workplace Ordinances**

*Partnership Applauds Supreme Court Decision*

**COLUMBIA**— Local governments across South Carolina should pass and enforce comprehensive smoke-free workplace ordinances in light of today’s State Supreme Court decision, a statewide partnership of smoke-free workplace advocates urged.

The Supreme Court announced that the City of Greenville’s comprehensive smoke-free workplace law is constitutional. The authority of local governments to enact local smoke-free laws was upheld after being under review because of conflicting judicial opinions in two cases involving the Greenville and Sullivan’s Island smoke-free laws.

The state’s highest court ruled that the smoke-free ordinance was “consistent with the Constitution and the general law of the state.”

“The winners in today’s decision will ultimately be the workers of South Carolina,” said Renee’ Martin, executive director of the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative. “We applaud the Supreme Court for recognizing the authority of local communities to create laws that protect workers from a known public health hazard. We urge local governments across the state to follow the lead of Greenville and 11 other municipalities who have already adopted smoke-free ordinances.”

Since June 2006, when the U.S. Surgeon General warned that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, two S.C. counties and 10 local municipalities adopted smoke-free workplace ordinances. Those communities are: Aiken County, Beaufort County, Bluffton, Charleston, Clemson, Columbia, Greenville, Hilton Head Island, Liberty, Mount Pleasant, Surfside Beach and Sullivan’s Island.

“We know that in recent months several other communities have considered smoke-free workplace ordinances but were waiting on the Court’s ruling. We hope today’s decision will inspire those municipalities to adopt laws that protect their workers, residents and visitors from secondhand smoke exposure,” Martin said.

The statewide partnership of advocates for smoke-free workplaces is made up of more than 20 health advocacy organizations, businesses and member organizations including the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, March of Dimes, SC African American Tobacco Control Network, SC Cancer Alliance, SC Tobacco Collaborative, and the Smoke-Free Action Network.

The **South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative (SCTC)** is a statewide assembly of the leading health organizations, community coalitions, and businesses committed to reducing the toll of tobacco use in South Carolina by providing resources and information on tobacco related issues to advocates, lawmakers, and concerned citizens. For more information, please visit [www.smokefreesc.org](http://www.smokefreesc.org).

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