

Letter to the editor:

Decades of clear and convincing science make smoke free indoor policy the right thing to do for North Dakota.

Bar and hotel owners have been talking a lot about their right to be a smoking business. This is also the issue of the right of the people who do not smoke and support their business. On a recent trip to Bismarck, we stayed at a hotel with a lounge and restaurant. After spending hours at the hospital, we came back late and five of us went to the lounge to relax. The lounge was a haze of blue smoke. It was impossible to stay there because of the air quality.

A second experience was staying in a smoking hotel room. This was not our choice but it was the only one available at the time. We thought the room would be okay because the staff sprayed frebreze throughout the two rooms. By morning I could hardly breathe. The smoke that clung to the carpets, drapes, upholstery and bedding could not be removed by just spraying an air freshener.

According to the Centers for Disease control, each year North Dakotans pay \$230 million in medical costs and lost productivity because of smoking. House bill 1213 provides an opportunity to reign in those costs and provide a level playing field for all patrons to enjoy public places.

Sincerely,

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