



# Smoke Free Dining is Just Good Taste

## Dear Concerned Citizen,

"Smoking or nonsmoking?" You've probably been asked that same question almost every time you go out to eat. And if you're a nonsmoker, more than likely you ask for the nonsmoking section.

Unfortunately, sitting in the nonsmoking section isn't enough to protect your health. You're being exposed to more secondhand smoke than you realize. Simply separating the smoking and nonsmoking areas within the same air space, may reduce some of your exposure to tobacco smoke, but it doesn't eliminate it.

"Ventilation systems" are what some companies are trying to sell to restaurants as the answer to the secondhand smoke problem, however, these systems can't remove all the toxic chemicals found in tobacco smoke that saturate the air and are absorbed into the surroundings. It's an expensive way to NOT solve the problem.

So next time you go out to eat, you'll probably need to choose between the smoking and secondhand smoke sections unless you make your SMOKE FREE choice known now.

## Restaurants need to know you care!

Now is the time to stand up and be heard. Let restaurant management know that

- 3 out of 4 people are nonsmokers and would prefer to dine smoke free!
- Families don't want to expose young children or the elderly to secondhand smoke.
- Nonsmokers sitting in a smoky area for just two hours "smoke" the equivalent of four cigarettes!

Please join us in promoting the statewide **Smoke Free Dining Is Just Good Taste** campaign. It only takes a few easy steps. All you need to do is look over the enclosed materials to help you make your voice and choice - SMOKE FREE DINING - heard.

1) *If the restaurant has a smoking section...*

leave one of the "Attention Restaurant Manager" cards when you pay your bill.

2) *If the restaurant is already 100% smoke free...*

leave the "Thank you for being smoke-free" card instead.

3) *If you know the management personally...*

encourage them to make their establishment smoke free for the health of everyone, and ask if they would like a Smoke Free Dining Is Just Good Taste toolkit to get started.

Toolkits are ready and available through your local tobacco coalition. Put a stack of comment cards in your wallet or purse, encourage your favorite restaurants to go smoke free and help make the difference. For additional information, visit our website at [www.smokefreesc.org](http://www.smokefreesc.org) or call (803) 530-6720.

Sincerely,



South Carolina  
Tobacco Collaborative