



## It's Time to Vote!

Smoke Free supporters say bring any of four options to Senate floor

**Madison, March 7, 2008**—Today members of the It's Time Coalition asked Senate Majority Leader Russ Decker to bring one of four smoke free bills, including his own proposed plan, to the Senate floor for a vote.

Unfortunately Senator Decker refused, following a morning meeting between smoke-free supporters and the majority leader's staff.

The four proposals include:

- The original bill ending workplace smoking everywhere seven months after passage.
- The Assembly committee version ending all workplace smoking in 2009.
- The Senate committee compromise giving bars until 2010 to comply.
- Senator Decker's position allowing tavern smoking until 2011 while pre-empting all local ordinances prior to that date.

While we strongly oppose Senator Decker's version of the bill we feel just as strongly that the people of Wisconsin deserve a vote on this issue.

During these ongoing talks the It's Time coalition has repeatedly come to the table in hopes of a workable solution to this serious health problem. However the Tavern League and its partners, including Big Tobacco, continue to delay.

Earlier this week Senator Decker told the media, "Never say never in politics," yet he's saying never to a vote on this critical health legislation, even if it's his own proposal.

Our position is to vote and honor the full legislative process. This bill has been endorsed in committee and there's no reason it can't come to the floor. To quote Senator Decker, "That's what you do in committees, you put amendments up and you discuss them and analyze them and then you make a vote."

It's time for Senator Decker to live up to those words and allow state senators to do their job and vote on a smoke free Wisconsin.

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