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## Ruin your own health

**Editor:**

I have been following the debate over the issue of smoking in public places. I understand the desire of people not to infringe upon the rights of business owners.

However, I am a mother of a child who has asthma and I have a nephew who has asthma. Unfortunately, the slightest exposure to secondhand smoke can cause an exacerbation. An asthma exacerbation could mean a trip to the emergency room or admission to the hospital in some cases. It also means increased use of medications and visits to the doctor.

We do not always have the luxury of avoiding smoking areas. My son and others like him have the right to be healthy. The only way to ensure this basic right is to pass laws that protect the air we all breathe in public places. One person's right to do harm should never supersede another's to be healthy.

I support a smoker's right to ruin his or her own health, but I do not support the idea that they have the right to ruin the health of others.

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