

Expose risks from smoke

8/22/10

Editor:

I'd like to respond to Brookie Turk's retort ("Let free enterprise rule," Letters/Aug. 6) to my letter about secondhand smoke, and to the feelings it has brought out of many bloggers who've been following the discussion.

The intent of my letter was to educate those who may not be aware of the dangers that secondhand smoke imposes and show validity in smoke-free public places of work. I understand the viewpoint that patrons of businesses that allow smoking should assume a certain risk upon entering, but can we assume they know the risks? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 50,000 Americans die annually from exposure to secondhand smoke. Unfortunately, not all of these Americans understood the risks associated with secondhand smoke.

My letter was interpreted by Mr. Turk to fuel his personal arguments, but I gave no argument, just facts. One known fact is that laws and ordinances that protect the public from secondhand smoke exposure are proven to save lives. Period.

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