



*MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.*

**HB 804**      Multifamily Dwellings - Smoking Policies  
House Environment and Transportation Committee      Hearing: February 18, 2025  
**FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the committee,

The U.S. Surgeon General has also concluded that separating smokers from nonsmokers in the same building cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.

**Sensitive individuals may find this intolerable. Others find that the odor is merely unpleasant. Still others are primarily concerned about health risks.**

Children, pregnant persons and those with asthma or heart disease are at disproportionate risk.

HB 804 will reduce, uncertainty, confusion and litigation resulting from the lack of clear expectations.

It will prevent serious chronic disease **in a flexible manner determined by residents themselves.**

**Individuals typically learn they are exposed to tobacco smoke only after they have purchase residential unit, resulting in frustration, disagreements and litigation.**

Litigation (in the District of Columbia) has already resulted from the lack of a clear process for

Second-hand smoke has been classified by the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Surgeon General, as a Class A human carcinogen for which there is no safe level of exposure.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), secondhand smoke causes nearly 34,000 premature deaths from heart disease each year in the U.S. among adults who do not smoke.

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