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HCSIA

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March of Dimes

Texas
Medical Association

Texas PTA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 23, 2009**

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**COLLEGE STATION JOINS 100% SMOKE-FREE CITY LIST;
STATEWIDE LAW STILL NEEDED TO PROTECT ALL TEXANS**

Smoke-Free Texas on Friday applauded the approval of a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance Thursday by the City of College Station and renewed its call for passage of a statewide smoke-free law to extend life-saving secondhand smoke protections to all Texans.

College Station becomes the 28th city in Texas to pass a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance. Now almost 6.3 million Texans – or 36.4 percent of Texans who live in municipalities – are protected from secondhand smoke exposure in all public and indoor workplaces, including restaurants and bars.

“Smoke-Free Texas congratulates the City College Station’s mayor and city council for recognizing the dangers of secondhand smoke and taking steps to protect their citizens,” said Jan Wilkerson, state president of Texas PTA, a member of Smoke-Free Texas.

“But local ordinances don’t protect all Texans, especially the 25 percent of our state’s population who live in unincorporated areas.

“It’s time for Texas lawmakers to extend the right to breathe smoke-free air to all Texans by passing statewide smoke-free workplace legislation in 2009.”

Smoke-Free Texas is supporting passage of House Bill 5 by Rep. Myra Crownover, R-Denton, that would give all Texans protections from dangerous secondhand smoke exposure. Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) will file similar legislation in the Texas Senate. Nationwide, 24 states have comprehensive smoke-free laws.

“Smoke-Free Texas hopes the Legislature takes note of the groundswell of support for smoke-free workplaces in Texas cities and in other states and passes House Bill 5,” said Melinda Little, southern regional director, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, a member of Smoke-Free Texas.

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Smoke-Free Texas, a coalition of public health organizations concerned about the dangers of secondhand smoke, is working to pass a statewide comprehensive smoke-free law. To learn more, visit www.smokefreetexas.org.