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**Virginians for a Healthy Future Commends Governor Kaine for  
Making State Offices Smoke Free**

RICHMOND, VA (October 26, 2006) – Virginians for a Healthy Future applauds Governor Tim Kaine’s executive order making most Commonwealth of Virginia government buildings smoke free. Executive Order 41 is a prime example of lawmakers acting on public health information.

“A U.S. Surgeon General's Report released this year found that secondhand smoke exposure increases a nonsmokers’ risk for heart disease by 25 to 30 percent,” said Terry Hargrove, associate director of government relations for the American Lung Association of Virginia. “We commend Governor Kaine for following the Surgeon General's recommendations and protecting thousands of workers from this health hazard.”

The order, which goes into effect on January 1, 2007, prohibits smoking in offices occupied by executive branch agencies and institutions, including state colleges and universities. It cites the Surgeon’s General declaration that eliminating smoking from indoor spaces is the only way to fully protect nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke.

“We are glad to see that Governor Kaine recognizes an employee’s right to breathe clean, smoke-free air,” said Ed Lord, senior vice president for the American Cancer Society. “This is a brave step that will further lower Virginia government workers risk for cancer and other chronic diseases.”

Virginians for a Healthy Future is a coalition of community organizations and individuals working to prevent and reduce death and disease caused by tobacco use. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in Virginia. Learn more about the health effects of secondhand smoke and the benefits of cleaning up our air by visiting our website at: [www.smokefreevanow.org](http://www.smokefreevanow.org)