



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department of Health*

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KAREN REMLEY, MD, MBA, FAAP  
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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To My Fellow Supporters of Smoke-Free Dining:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and assistance as Virginia proceeds towards implementation of the ban on smoking in restaurants, which takes effect on December 1. The Virginia Department of Health has been actively engaged with a wide range of public and private sector stakeholders to ensure that the new statutory requirements are implemented in a common sense, efficient, and effective manner. I am confident that the law will be administered properly, that there will be a high degree of compliance, and that public health will be improved.

In order to express our gratitude to Virginia's restaurant and hospitality industry for their support of our efforts to protect public health, I am encouraging you to join Governor Tim Kaine, Secretary of Health and Human Resources Marilyn Tavenner, and I in the "Commonwealth Challenge" by going to your favorite restaurant on December 1 to thank them for creating a smoke free environment, and congratulating them for their business success. Smoke-free dining protects public health, makes good business sense, improves our quality of life, and will help all Virginians to "breathe easy."

Your assistance in publicizing the Commonwealth Challenge, by sharing this note with others and by posting it on your website, is greatly appreciated.

*Breathe easy, Va.*  
Enjoy our smoke-free environment

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Remley".

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP  
State Health Commissioner