

**African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Nurses Association - New York
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
New York Chapter American College of Physicians Services
New York Public Interest Research Group
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Stan Martin Consulting, LLC**

**JOINT MEMO IN OPPOSITION
S.4517 (J. Ramos)/ A.3749 (P. Ramos)**

The above-listed organizations strongly oppose legislation S.4517 (J. Ramos)/ A.3749 (P. Ramos) that would harm workers, public health, and counter the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) enacted in 2003.

This bill would re-open, and potentially gut, the State's landmark Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) to allow cigar lounges in New York to serve alcohol. This bill would essentially open the doors to allow smoking in bars once again. In addition, included in the bill's provisions is highly disturbing language to permit children to enter cigar lounges if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

More than two decades ago, our organizations worked tirelessly alongside dozens of health advocacy, medical, civic groups, and clergy to support the CIAA and it was successfully enacted in 2003. This bill has proven effective for not only public health, but businesses' bottom line. There is no justification for altering this effective current law that has been in place for more than 20 years.

No employee should ever have to choose between a paycheck and their health. There is no monetary justification for endangering the lives of workers or patrons from the deadly impacts of secondhand smoke.

Exposure is a concern for all ages because [50,000 people die annually](#) in the U.S. from heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer, and it is an issue especially for children and pregnant people. [Studies](#) have shown that children exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased risk of bronchitis, pneumonia, and persistent asthma. Additionally, exposure during pregnancy significantly affects fetal growth, has adverse neurological effects on infants exposed in utero, and has been linked to cancer.

The CIAA ensured that all workers and the public are protected from these toxins and was a major win against the misinformation and covert strategies of the tobacco industry to maximize profits. Unfortunately, a very limited exemption was provided grandfathering in certain cigar bars from being required to comply with the CIAA. The cigar lounge industry is now trying to change the rules of the game and weaken the CIAA to turn their lounges into bars.

Reopening the law is a major step backwards for New York State, which has proudly been a leader in tobacco control efforts.

We strongly oppose this legislation and urge that it be defeated to preserve our strong Clean Indoor Air Act and to protect workers and all New Yorkers from exposure to deadly secondhand smoke.