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## **Municipal/County Smoke Free Task Force Applauds proposed state ban on smoking**

The co-chairs of the Municipal/County Smoke Free Task Force are praising the statewide smoking ban approved by Illinois state lawmakers on Tuesday. The measure now goes to Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who indicated he would sign the legislation. The ban would make Illinois the 19<sup>th</sup> state to impose a broad smoking ban.

“This state smoking ban,” said Linda Kurzawa, president of the DuPage County Board of Health, “is a positive step toward better public health all across Illinois.” She added, “As co-chair of the county’s smoke free task force, it has been my privilege to help DuPage communities who want to ban smoking. This state ban takes that one step further.”

Woodridge Mayor Bill Murphy, also co-chair of the county task force, said, “This comprehensive ban eliminates the patchwork approach of smoking bans here in DuPage and elsewhere in the state.” He added, “The documented dangers of secondhand smoke will be greatly reduced for all DuPage and Illinois residents.”

The state legislation would prohibit smoking in all public buildings and in most businesses and government vehicles. Smoking would be illegal in bars and restaurants, as well as many other locations. If Blagojevich signs the bill, it would take effect on Jan. 1, 2008.

The eight members of the county smoke free task force met for several months last year to create and then share information about drafting smoke free ordinances. A website, [www.SmokefreeDuPage.org](http://www.SmokefreeDuPage.org) was developed as a community resource.

The task force included DuPage County Board members Kurzawa (District 6), Tom Bennington (District 3) Jerry McBride (District 4) and Brien Sheahan (District 2). Municipal representatives included Murphy (Woodridge), Mayor Joe Broda (Lisle), Mayor Rudy Czech (Winfield) and Mayor Gary Grasso (Burr Ridge).

*“We promote health, prevent illness, and provide quality service”*