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To: New Jersey Legislators and Leadership
From: Karen Blumenfeld, Esq., Executive Director
Date: May 13, 2009

Re: Federal government report by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released: Lung carcinogen from secondhand smoke found in nonsmoking casino dealers; recommend 100% ban on smoking in casinos.

This month, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released a three year study on exposure of nonsmoking casino dealers to secondhand smoke (SHS)¹. NIOSH collected and analyzed (1) urine samples of nonsmoking non-poker² casino dealers in Las Vegas, to determine if they were absorbing secondhand smoke carcinogenic components into their bodies, and (2) SHS exposure by air testing the air in three casinos in Las Vegas. NIOSH also surveyed nonsmoking non-poker casino dealers in Las Vegas, about health symptoms. The tests were conducted at three Las Vegas: Caesars Palace, Bally's and Paris.

The NIOSH study recommendations, conclusions, findings and references are:

- **KEY RECOMMENDATION: Eliminate smoking from casinos, and near building entrances and air intakes, to protect employees from SHS exposure.**
- **KEY CONCLUSIONS:** Best means to eliminate SHS workplace exposure is to ban all smoking in casinos. Nonsmoking non-poker casino dealers are exposed to NNAL, a known SHS carcinogen, during their workshift.
- **KEY FINDINGS:**
 - At the end of their workshifts, nonsmoking non-poker casino dealers had measurable increases of the SHS lung carcinogen NNAL, showing that NNAL lung carcinogen was absorbed into their bodies during their work shift; and more cotinine (a nicotine byproduct) in their urine.
 - Nonsmoking non-poker casino dealers had more respiratory symptoms at work, compared to nongaming floor casino workers working in nonsmoking environments.
 - Air testing results found nicotine, benzene (class A carcinogen), other chemicals in the air; carbon dioxide concentrations were more than 700 ppm relative to outdoors.
- **REFERENCE: Ventilation should NOT be relied upon to control health risks from SHS smoke exposure in public spaces, and the ONLY means of eliminating the health risks from SHS smoke exposure indoors is to ban ALL smoking³.**

Attached: Excerpts from the NIOSH report, and the May 6, 2009 *Press of Atlantic City* article.

¹ Summary at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/>; report at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2005-0201-3080.pdf>

² Poker dealers were not included in this study, since most poker rooms are 100% smokefree voluntarily, which may reduce their exposure to secondhand smoke during their workshift.

³ Page 18 of NIOSH report, referencing 2005 ASHRAE position document, which is also in the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report on secondhand smoke and smoking.