

SHORT TITLE: Commending the University of Oklahoma on their smoke-free campus policy; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 2

By: Long (Ed) and Robinson

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution congratulating and commending the University of Oklahoma's administration for their leadership in reduction of secondhand smoke by proposing a smoke-free campus policy; encouraging the University of Oklahoma's Board of Regents and all governing boards of public colleges and universities to approve and adopt similar rules and regulations; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma is considering the implementation of the toughest no-smoking policy within the state system of higher education, including a ban on outdoor smoking at home football games in Oklahoma Memorial Stadium. Under current policy, the University allows smoking in designated areas. Several campus buildings, including Evans Hall, are completely smoke-free while others only allow smoking in faculty offices; and

WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma's President, Richard Van Horn, is requesting the school regents to declare the University to be a smoke-free campus for medical, ethical and legal reasons. Smoking would be prohibited in all academic buildings and dormitories and there would be no designated smoking areas in any buildings. Faculty members would not be allowed to smoke in their offices. The proposal also would prohibit smoking in outdoor areas where people congregate, such as outdoor seating areas and lines formed outside buildings; and

WHEREAS, reports by the Surgeon General of the United States and major medical groups provide reasons for a smoke-free campus. An Environmental Protection Agency report observes cigarette smoke is a human carcinogen and kills about 3,000 nonsmokers a year because of

lung cancer. Medical authorities have recently emphasized the dangers of secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, state law requires all state agencies to provide at least one designated smoking area in each state building but an exception to that requirement was made in 1989 for educational institutions and health care facilities. The Oklahoma Department of Labor has issued a rule restricting smoking in all city, county and state buildings. The rule permits smoking only in designated areas that have separate ventilation; and

WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma's Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City already has comprehensive no-smoking policies which administrators implemented over a two-year period. All but three buildings became smoke-free in July 1990. By May 1992, these three buildings had converted to no-smoking areas. In 1992, the University prohibited smoking inside Lloyd Noble Arena where basketball games are played; and

WHEREAS, implementation plans for the no-smoking policy are being reviewed by faculty and staff. It has been estimated that less than 10 percent of the University's full-time faculty members are smokers. Most University faculty representatives believe that smoking is not good for one's health and secondary smoke is both hazardous and irritating. The Student Congress has begun debate on the no-smoking recommendations. The Employee Executive Council has proposed the prohibition of selling tobacco products on campus, programs to help employees stop smoking and the expansion of the current insurance policy to cover prescription nonsmoking aids. The Council also asked the University to fund smoking-cessation programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates and commends the University of Oklahoma's administration for their forthright

leadership in reduction of secondhand smoke through the proposal of a smoke-free campus policy.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and all governing boards of public universities and colleges to approve and adopt similar rules and regulations.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to President Richard L. Van Horn of the University of Oklahoma; the Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma; and the Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for distribution to all boards of regents and trustees in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

44-1-0920

THC