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**RESPIRATORY
HEALTH
ASSOCIATIONSM**
of Metropolitan Chicago

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2007

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SMOKE-FREE LAW WILL SAVE MORE LIVES THAN SEAT BELTS

Statement of Joel Africk,
President & CEO, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago

Joel J. Africk, President and CEO, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago praised the passage of SB 500, which prohibits smoking in all Illinois public and work spaces including restaurants, bars and casinos.

“This law will save more lives than seat belts,” said Africk. “Our volunteers and staff have been working for passage of this historic legislation for more than a decade. It’s a great day for public health.”

“We expect the governor to sign the bill into law quickly. With the cost of healthcare continuing to rise, and the State’s need for additional funding to manage its healthcare obligations, it would be very difficult for the Governor not to sign a bill that saves so many lives with no out-of-pocket cost to the State.”

“More than 50% of the United States population now live in states and cities with strong smoke-free laws,” Africk said. “Those states have begun to record significant reductions in cases of lung cancer and other diseases attributable to smoking. We look forward to seeing similar improvements in the health of Illinois residents.”

Chicago’s Lung Health
Leader Since 1906

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