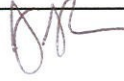



F R O M	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. Commissioner of Health 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0231 – Health – Smoking On or Adjacent to Hospital Premises		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o
409 City Hall

December 23, 2008

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) supports Council Bill 08-0231. The purpose of the Bill is to prohibit smoking on or adjacent to hospital premises.

Hospitals promote health and wellness. They are a place where one goes to obtain medical assistance and to improve one's health. Patients visiting a hospital for medical treatment or evaluation, especially those with a respiratory illness, who are pregnant or who are infants or youths, should not be exposed to secondhand smoke while coming to and from a hospital. Smoking, therefore, should not be allowed on a hospital's premise.

In addition, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore Washington Medical Center, St. Joseph Medical Center, St. Agnes Hospital, and Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital are hospitals in Maryland that already enforce a smoke-free campus. Prohibiting smoking on hospital campuses is a national trend that many are following.

Prohibiting smoking on the grounds of a public health institution is appropriate. BCHD supports Bill 08-0231.

Cc: Angela Gibson

