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PRESIDENT

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The Honorable Keisha Lance Bottoms
Mayor
City of Atlanta
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mayor Bottoms:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I write to thank you for signing Ordinance 19-O-1205, which prohibits smoking and vaping in bars, restaurants, places of employment, hotel and motel rooms, and other public spaces. The AMA applauds your commitment to protecting the public health.

Secondhand smoke contains dangerous chemicals, exposure to which increases individuals' risk of heart disease, lung disease, stroke and cancer, and is responsible for more than 41,000 deaths across the country each year. Tragically, the health impacts of secondhand smoke disproportionately fall on low-income populations and communities of color that experience existing health disparities and too often lack access to health care. By eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke in public and workplaces, many of these illnesses and deaths can be prevented. Enactment of the smoke-free ordinance is an important step toward protecting the health of Atlanta's residents, workers, and visitors. The AMA commends your action on this important issue.

If you have any questions, please contact Annalia Michelman, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4788.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrice A. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA

cc: Medical Association of Georgia
Medical Association of Atlanta
Sandra Adamson Fryhofer, MD