EMAIL TO:
Smoke-free, Healthy Housing Groups

Dear [Smoke-free/Healthy Housing Organization],

I am emailing to ask your input and guidance on urging our city to protect people in apartments and condos from secondhand smoke with a smoke-free multifamily housing policy.

[IN 1 SENTENCE, INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND STATE WHY YOU CARE ABOUT THIS ISSUE]

When people smoke, it emits harmful substances into the air around them. Secondhand smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals, and is linked to certain cancers and other diseases. CDC researchers say "there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke."

Yet, inside multifamily housing, over half of non-smokers are exposed to secondhand smoke.

People who live in apartments and condos share the air with each other. Secondhand smoke can travel through doorways, halls, windows, ventilation systems, and gaps around fixtures, outlets, and pipes.

This is why HUD has a smoke-free policy in public housing.

But people in privately owned apartments, duplexes, and condominiums may not have such protection against secondhand smoke. This is especially true for people of color, as nearly 24% of Mexican American-nonsmokers were exposed to secondhand smoke, data show.

We can take action to make a difference in lives.

Health and industry experts agree that a smoke-free multifamily housing policy is the only means of eliminating health risk associated with indoor exposure to secondhand smoke.

U.S. cities are starting smoke-free multifamily housing policies: https://salud.to/apartments. We can customize our own local policy: http://salud.to/smokefreepolicies. Here is a fact sheet on why this is important: http://salud.to/smokefreefacts.

Salud America!
Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at UT Health San Antonio
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210.562.6500 | Fax 210.562.6545 | www.salud-america.org

Thanks to an Action Pack from *Salud America!*, a national health equity program based at UT Health San Antonio, we have a strong introductory email, talking points, and social media messages to reach out to city and community leaders and build support.

To ensure this effort is as inclusive, equitable, and powerful as possible, I would love to hear your input and guidance on using this Action Pack to urge our city leaders to consider a smoke-free multifamily housing policy — as well as a plan to implement and enforce it — to protect the health of tenants and apartment staff, and save apartment owners money in property maintenance, fire prevention, insurance, and reduced legal liability.

I look forward to hearing from you. I would be glad to chat more if you'd like.

Thank you,
[NAME, TITLE]
[CONTACT INFO]