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**Media Invited to 10 Year Anniversary Celebration of the  
 Dee Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act**  
 Celebration Continues Fight to Reduce Toll from Tobacco

The New Mexico Allied Council on Tobacco (NMACT) is holding a 10-year anniversary celebration to recognize a decade of progress in the quest for cleaner, healthier air in New Mexico, free from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. The Council includes the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), American Heart Association, American Lung Association, New Mexico Cancer Center, Keres Consulting and Nuestra Salud, among numerous other local and national partners.

It was in 2007 that the Dee Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act was passed by the state Legislature and signed into law. The 10 Year Anniversary event is sponsored by NMACT and the Chronic Disease Prevention Council and will be held at noon on June 15, 2017 at the Marble Brewery in Downtown Albuquerque.

The Dee Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits smoking in indoor public places and workplaces including restaurants, bars and nightclubs. New Mexico's Clean Indoor Act was named after the late first lady of New Mexico Dee Johnson, in honor of her successful fight to ban smoking in the state Capitol. Starting in 1994, she faced off with the tobacco industry and legislative leadership, many of whom smoked, in her efforts to prohibit smoking inside the roundhouse. In 2002, after a seven-year fight, the Capitol became smoke-free.

Smoking costs New Mexico \$844 million each year in direct health care costs, kills 2,630 New Mexicans annually, and 78,000 people suffer with at least one serious illness from smoking. Tobacco-free workplaces and public places protect workers from secondhand smoke and support workers and patrons who are trying to quit tobacco. The fight to reduce the toll of tobacco on New Mexico continues. Go to [acscan.org/NM](http://acscan.org/NM) to find out more.

**Event Details:**

**Date/Time:** June 15, 2017; noon – 2pm

**Place:** Marble Brewery; 111 Marble Avenue, NW, Albuquerque

**Cost:** Complimentary lunch for attendees and media

**Speakers** will be available for comment and include:

- Abinash Achrekar, MD, MPH, Cardiologist at University of New Mexico  
and American Heart Association Board President
- Former State Senator Dede Feldman, (Invited)
- State Senator Cisco McSorley
- Chris Dracup, Musicians for a Smoke-free Stage (Invited)
- Patricia Torn, NMACT member and advocate (Invited)

### **About the New Mexico Allied Council on Tobacco**

NMACT advocates for proven tobacco use prevention policies through statewide partnerships to reduce disease and death from commercial tobacco abuse. Learn more at [newmexicoact.org](http://newmexicoact.org)

### **About the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**

ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard. For more information, visit <http://www.acscan.org/>.

### **About the American Lung Association in New Mexico**

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases. For more information about the American Lung Association, a holder of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Guide Seal, or to support the work it does, call 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872) or visit our website: [Lung.org](http://Lung.org).

### **About the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association**

The American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association are devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – the two leading causes of death in the world. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. The American Stroke Association is a division of the American Heart Association. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit [heart.org](http://heart.org) or call any of our offices around the country. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **About Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights**

Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights is the leading national lobbying organization (501 (c) 4), dedicated to nonsmokers' rights, taking on the tobacco industry at all levels of government, protecting nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke, and preventing tobacco addiction among youth. ANR pursues an action-oriented program of policy and legislation.

**About Keres Consulting, Inc.** is a Native American-owned, New Mexico-based small business that cares about the impact of commercial tobacco in New Mexico's tribal communities. It works to eliminate death and disease caused from commercial tobacco through commercial tobacco prevention, cessation and education in Native American communities throughout New Mexico.

### **About the March of Dimes**

Prematurity is the #1 killer of babies in the United States. We are working to change that and help more moms have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies. From polio to prematurity the March of Dimes has focused on researching the problems that threaten our children and finding ways to prevent them.

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