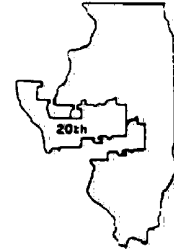


# News Release



Congressman

**DICK  
DURBIN**



20th District,  
Illinois

129 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515 • 202/225-5271

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Contact: Steve Blakely  
Phone: 202/225-5271

## AUTHORS OF AIRLINE SMOKING BAN KICK OFF RENEWAL DRIVE

WASHINGTON -- The authors of the federal smoking ban on short-haul airline flights today kicked off their legislative campaign to permanently extend the ban, citing "solid evidence" of the law's public support and effectiveness.

Reps. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) and C.W. Bill Young (R-Fla.), co-authors of the airline smoking ban enacted by Congress in 1987, said experience shows the law has worked extremely well and is overwhelmingly endorsed by the flying public -- even by a majority of airline passengers who smoke. The smoking ban expires in 1990 unless renewed by Congress.

"Two years ago, the tobacco industry was predicting rebellion and violence in the air because of this law. It's no surprise they've been proven wrong again, as they have so many times before," Durbin and Young said in a joint statement. "Even most smokers realize this law has helped improve the health and safety of everyone who flies. Today we are kicking off the drive in Congress to permanently clean up the air in airplanes."

The two lawmakers spoke at a press conference held today by the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC), which released a new national survey that shows 84% of all airline travelers approve of the current smoking ban on airplanes. The AARC survey also found that more than 58% of smoking passengers approve of the ban -- almost double their support for smoke-free flights since the last AARC survey in 1987.

Also appearing at the press conference was an official of the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA), who cited Federal Aviation Administration reports of only 113 "enforcement actions" taken under the smoking ban in the year since the law was passed, out of roughly 455 million airline passengers.

"These findings show that the American flying public not only has accepted this smoking ban, they have welcomed it," Durbin and Young said. "We cannot allow the tobacco industry to force a return to the smoky skies."

The airline smoking ban took effect on April 23, 1988, and is scheduled to expire in 1990 unless extended by Congress. Durbin and Young have co-sponsored legislation in the 101st Congress (HR 106) that would permanently renew the existing smoking ban on two-hour flights. The measure has 145 co-sponsors in the House, and will be the subject of a public hearing June 22 before the House Public Works and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation.

The Durbin/Young ban on airline smoking represents the first time Congress has ever restricted the actual use of tobacco for public health reasons, as opposed to its advertising or labelling. It was enacted with the support of the nation's airline flight attendant unions and numerous health groups, despite strong opposition from the tobacco lobby.

A ban on airline smoking was strongly recommended for health reasons for the National Academy of Sciences in 1986, about the same time that a report by the U.S. Surgeon General documented the health threats posed to non-smokers by "second-hand" or "passive" smoke in enclosed areas.

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