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**MAJORITY OF AIRLINE PASSENGERS WANT SMOKING BAN;
NATIONAL HEALTH GROUP CALLS FOR ACTION**

DALLAS -- A national study has found that two thirds of all airline passengers want a ban on in-flight smoking.

The survey, believed to be the largest of its kind, asked 33,242 airline passengers if they favored a smoking ban on all commercial airline flights. Sixty-four percent said yes, 28% said no and 8% had no opinion.

The study, sponsored by the American Association for Respiratory Care, was conducted in 39 states this spring. Volunteers, most of them respiratory therapists, polled flyers at 89 airports across the country. They found 74% of non-smoking passengers and 30% of smokers want to fly smoke-free.

These results, as well as concerns about passenger health and safety, have prompted the American Association for Respiratory Care to ask commercial airlines for a voluntary smoking ban on all flights. In preparation for such a ban, the organization wants airline passengers to "go cold turkey" during the Thanksgiving holiday.

U.S. airlines have been asked to prohibit in-flight smoking from Wednesday, November 25, through Sunday, November 29, 1987. Because the Thanksgiving weekend is the most heavily traveled period in the year, airlines could use this five-day trial to gauge passenger reactions to smoke-free flying.

Responses from the airlines are included elsewhere in this packet.

The American Association for Respiratory Care has targeted airlines for a permanent ban because second-hand cigarette smoke may be more dangerous to people on airplanes than in other public places.

Ventilation systems aboard commercial airliners may not empty smoke as well as those found in homes or office buildings. As a result, both smoking and non-smoking passengers may be exposed to higher concentrations of toxic gases and chemicals.

Second-hand smoke contains over 3,000 toxic chemicals, including carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, arsenic, hydrogen cyanide, ammonia, formic acid and cadmium. Concentrations of these chemicals and gases can become quite high in airplanes because smokers tend to light up at the same time: after the "no-smoking" light is turned off and following meals. While smoke is more

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dense in the smoking section, passengers in non-smoking sections are also exposed.

Exposure to high concentrations of cigarette smoke can cause severe problems for people with heart conditions and lung diseases like asthma and emphysema. Long-term exposure has been linked to a higher incidence of lung cancer, lung damage and birth defects. In particular, children and pregnant women face a potential health risk from second-hand smoke.

Another rationale for a smoking ban is the safety of the airplane itself. Because smoking has been implicated in a small number of inflight fires, it presents a potential threat to safety.

The American Association for Respiratory Care believes that separation of smoking and non-smoking areas is not sufficient to minimize the effects of passive smoking aboard airlines. The AARC joins the American Medical Association, the American Lung Association and the National Research Council in asking for a smoking ban on all commercial passenger air flights.

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The American Association for Respiratory Care is a 27,000 member professional organization concerned about health promotion and public awareness of respiratory health. Its members include respiratory therapists, physicians, and other health care professionals.