



# **GASP** of Massachusetts

Group Against Smoking Pollution

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 16, 1987

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## MASSACHUSETTS GASP JOINS NATIONAL LOBBY DAY TO SUPPORT BAN ON SMOKING ON AIRLINES.

Group Against Smoking Pollution (GASP) of Massachusetts, a 2200-member, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the health and rights of nonsmokers, will actively participate in the National Lobby Day for a Ban on Smoking on Airlines. GASP Attorney and State House lobbyist Edward L. Sweda, Jr. and staff member James V. Palmer will attend the 9:30 A.M. press conference at Room 538 of the Senate Dirksen Building and then join activists from around the country who will lobby their Senators.

Sweda, who earlier this year successfully lobbied the Massachusetts legislature to adopt a resolution urging Congress to adopt a ban on smoking on airlines, said that a ban was an idea whose time had come. "The public is demanding smoke-free flights," Sweda said, noting a recent study by the American Association for Respiratory Care which showed 64 percent of the more than 33,000 airline passengers surveyed favoring an in-flight smoking ban.

"We are greatly encouraged by the House of Representatives' vote in July in favor of an amendment to the transportation appropriations bill prohibiting smoking on flights of two hours or less," Sweda continued. 9 of the 11 members of the Massachusetts delegation voted in favor of that amendment.

Sweda predicted that GASP members and others will send many telegrams, letters and telephone calls to Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry to solidify their support for smoke-free flights. "After all," Sweda concluded, "it will take a determined effort by groups and individuals acting in the interest of public health and safety to overcome the tobacco lobby. GASP of Massachusetts is here in Washington today to help accomplish this vital goal."