



**Japan Society for Tobacco Control**

**日本禁煙学会**

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## **Urgent declaration: realizing a society without passive smoking**

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President, Japan Cancer Society, Public interest corporation, Kakizoe Tadao  
Representative, Japan Lung Cancer Patient Liaison Committee, Hasegawa Kazuo  
Representative, Citizen Group for Cancer Treatments, Aida Shoichiro

In this government bill,

1. the measures go against the agreement of the IOC • WHO and are far from the international standard of complete indoor smoking prohibition that have been observed for many years at the Olympics-Paralympics.
2. we will completely disregard the matter requested by WHO Administrative Director Margaret Zhang.
3. not only is the health of citizens not protected, Japan might become a joke for the world.

Scientific evidence has shown the adverse health effects of passive smoking, such as an increased risk of childhood asthma and sudden infant death syndrome, in addition to an increased risk of myocardial infarction, stroke, lung cancer and other cancers in adults. It is estimated that 15,000 people die each year due to passive smoking and that 150,000 people die each year due to active smoking.

To maintain and to expand a tradition of health practices for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics - Paralympics, we announced the draft proposal "strengthening passive smoking prevention measures" which was originally published by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare in October 2016. Furthermore, we advocate legislation with the goal of "prohibiting smoking completely indoors".

The original draft proposal from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (prohibiting smoking completely indoors) was jointly signed by the Japanese Medical Association, the Japanese Dental Association, the Japanese Pharmaceutical Association, the Japanese Nursing Association and other organizations and individuals. In fact, the proposal gathered more than 2,640,000 signatures, making it clear that the proposal has the support of many Japanese citizens.

On 7 June 2018 the board of directors of the House of Representatives Steering Committee proposed a bill to allow smoking in areas less than 100 m<sup>2</sup>. However, this bill would not fully protect the health of citizens and those coming to Japan for the Olympics-Paralympics, and it would not meet the most recent international standards from the World Health Organization-International Olympic Committee (WHO-IOC) of a "Tobacco Free Olympics". Also, the health of many employees who work in small areas would not be protected.

The ruling party pledges to citizens to rid them of unwanted passive smoking by enacting thoroughly enforced legislation.

Please commit to this promise (the principle of a thoroughly enforced "indoor smoking prohibition" to prevent passive smoking) by revising the Health Promotion Law. This commitment would help to protect the health of more than 84% of non-smoking citizens (including employees and children).

We believe that eliminating passive smoking from society will promote health and longevity among citizens and cleanliness in the country.