



March 24, 2014

The Honorable Aaron Bean
Chair, Florida Senate Committee on Health Policy
302 Senate Office Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chairman Bean:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) are writing to strongly encourage you to support SB 572. This bill, cited as the “Preventing Youth Cancer Act”, would prohibit the use of artificial tanning devices by minors under the age of 18. Senate Bill 572 would also impose criminal penalties for violations of the prescribed licensing and safety requirements. The AOA, AOCD and FOMA support imposing appropriate safety precautions and requirements upon tanning device operators.

The AOA proudly represents its professional family of more than 104,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs, is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools, and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. The AOCD represents over 600 physicians, dermatology residents and student members. It is dedicated to improving the standards of the practice of dermatology, stimulating the study of dermatology and promoting understanding of the nature and scope of services rendered by osteopathic dermatologists. FOMA is a professional organization that represents nearly 6,000 osteopathic physicians in Florida.

Tanning equipment works by bombarding the skin with ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Tanning salons use lamps that emit UV-A and UV-B radiation, both of which damage the skin and can cause skin cancer.¹ In 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a working group of the World Health Organization (WHO), classified UV-emitting tanning devices as a carcinogen, an agent known to cause cancer in humans.² In 2012, a study found that indoor tanning can cause the most common form of skin cancer, non-melanoma skin cancer, in addition to the deadliest form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma.³

¹ Food and Drug Administration, Indoor Tanning: The Risks of Ultraviolet Rays, May 11, 2010, *available at* <http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm186687.htm>.

² IARC, Sunbeds and UV Radiation, July 7, 2009, *available at* http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php.

³ Elizabeth Fernandez, Tanning Beds Linked to Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer, Oct. 2, 2012, *available at* <http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-non-melanoma-skin-cancer>.

Prohibiting minors from using tanning equipment is an effective means to protect them from the long-term health risks of these devices. Young people are at a heightened risk of developing skin cancer from indoor tanning, as they subject themselves to additional years of artificial UV exposure.⁴ For this reason, the WHO and the American Academy of Dermatology recommend banning the use of tanning devices by minors.⁵ States that have restricted access to indoor tanning for minors have seen stable or decreased rates of skin cancer, while states without these policies have seen an increase in the same.⁶

The use of tanning by children is inappropriate and should be banned due to its negative long-term health effects. In addition, adults who choose to patronize tanning facilities deserve to be made aware of the dangers of exposure to UV radiation. **We urge you to protect Florida's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting SB 572 in committee.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, AOA Director of State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



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President, AOA



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⁴ See, Jean-Francois Dore and Marie-Christine Chignol, Tanning Salons and Skin Cancer, Photochem. Photobiol. Sci. 11, 30-37 (2012).

⁵ Adam Riker, Nicolas Zea, and Tan Trinh, The Epidemiology, Prevention, and Detection of Melanoma, The Ochsner Journal, 10:56-65 (2010).

⁶ Dore, et al., supra.