



March 31, 2014

The Honorable David R. Heitmeier
Chair, Louisiana Senate Health and Welfare Committee
PO Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Chairman Heitmeier:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association (LOMA) are writing to strongly encourage you to support HB 746. This bill would prohibit the use of artificial tanning devices by minors under the age of 18. The bill would also prohibit tanning facilities from claiming or distributing materials that claim use of a tanning device is safe or free from risk. The AOA, AOCD and LOMA support imposing appropriate safety precautions and educational 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. LOMA is a professional organization that represents 200 osteopathic physicians in Louisiana.

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

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.

common form of skin cancer, non-melanoma skin cancer, in addition to the deadliest form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma.³

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 equipment by children is inappropriate and should be banned due to its 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 Louisiana's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting HB 746 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



Suzanne Rozenberg, DO
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Christopher Surek, DO
President, LOMA

CC: Robert S. Juhasz, DO, FACOI, FACP, AOA President-elect
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³ Elizabeth Fernandez, [Tanning Beds Linked to Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer](http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-non-melanoma-skin-cancer), Oct. 2, 2012, available at <http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-non-melanoma-skin-cancer>.

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.