



February 19, 2014

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton  
Chair, Maryland Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Middleton:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the Maryland Association of Osteopathic Physicians (MAOP) are writing to strongly encourage you to support SB 410.** This bill would further strengthen existing protections against minors accessing tanning facilities by removing an exception that allows parents or guardians to authorize the usage of such facilities. The AOA, AOCD and MAOP 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. MAOP is a professional organization that represents nearly 1,000 osteopathic physicians in Maryland.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> IARC, Sunbeds and UV Radiation, July 7, 2009, *available at* [http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds\\_uvradiation.php](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php).

<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> For this reason, the WHO and the American Academy of Dermatology recommend banning the use of tanning devices by minors.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> The fact that minors in particular are at a greater risk means that the exception allowing for parental consent to the usage of tanning facilities should be removed.

The use of tanning equipment by children is inappropriate and should be banned due to its long-term health effects. **We urge you to protect Maryland's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting SB 410 in committee.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nick Schilligo, MS, Director of State Government Affairs at [nschilligo@osteopathic.org](mailto:nschilligo@osteopathic.org) or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



Norman E. Vinn, DO, MBA, FACOFP  
President



Suzanne Rozenberg, DO  
President, AOCD



Brian Kahan, DO  
President, MAOP

CC: Robert S. Juhasz, DO, FACOI, FACP, AOA President-elect  
William S. Mayo, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs  
Thomas L. Ely, DO, FACOFP, Chair, AOA Bureau of State Government Affairs  
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, AOA Executive Director and CEO  
Catherine A. Galligan, RN, MM, CPA, AOA Chief Operating Officer  
Linda Mascheri, Associate Executive Director, AOA State, Affiliate & International Affairs  
Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Director, AOA Division of State Government Affairs  
Marsha A. Wise, BS, Executive Director, AOCD  
Stephanie Wilson, Executive Director, MAOP

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

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

<sup>6</sup> Dore, et al., supra.