



March 5, 2018

The Honorable Terry Gerratana
Senate Co-Chair
Connecticut State Joint Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3002
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Co-Chair Gerratana:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society (COMS) are writing in support of SB 219. This bill would prohibit the use of artificial tanning devices by persons less than 18 years of age. The AOA, AOCD and COMS strongly support restricting the use of tanning devices, which can have serious long-term health consequences including cancer, by minors.

The AOA represents 137,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. The AOCD represents nearly 1,000 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. COMS is a professional medical organization that represents over 700 osteopathic physicians in Connecticut.

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

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

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 International Agency for Research on Cancer. "Sunbeds and UV Radiation." July 7, 2009, *available at* http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php.

³ Fernandez, E. "[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>.

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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 prohibited due to its long-term health effects. **We urge you to protect Connecticut's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting SB 219.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Raine Richards, JD, Director, State Government Affairs at richards@osteopathic.org or (312) 202-8199.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Baker, DO
President, AOA



Karthik Krishnamurthy, DO, FAOCD
President, AOCD



Gregory Czarnecki, DO
President, COMS

CC: William S. Mayo, DO, President-elect, AOA
Joseph M. Yasso, Jr., DO, Chair, Department of Governmental Affairs, AOA
Thomas L. Ely, DO, Chair, Bureau of State Government Affairs, AOA
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, AOA
David Pugach, JD, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, AOA
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Marsha A. Wise, BS, Executive Director, AOCD
Samyuktha Gumidyala, MPH, Affiliate Executive, COMS

⁴ 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.