

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Michael O'Donnell  
Chairman, Senate Public Health and Welfare  
300 Southwest 10th Avenue, Room 225-E  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman O'Donnell:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) are writing to strongly encourage you to support HB 2369.** This bill would prohibit tanning facilities from providing access to a tanning device for any person under the age of 18. Violators of this provision could also be charged a fine not in excess of \$250. The AOA and AOCD strongly support restricting the use of tanning devices, which can have serious long-term health consequences including cancer, by minors.

The AOA represents more than 123,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) 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. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at [www.osteopathic.org](http://www.osteopathic.org). 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.

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>

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

<sup>2</sup> IARC, [Sunbeds and UV Radiation](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php), 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](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>.

The Honorable Michael O'Donnell

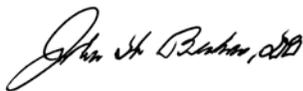
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Prohibiting minors from using tanning equipment is an effective means to protect them from the long-term health risks of these devices. Young people are at a heightened risk of developing skin cancer from indoor tanning, as they subject themselves 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 use of tanning equipment by children is inappropriate and should be prohibited due to its long-term health effects. **We urge you to protect Kansas's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting HB 2369 in committee.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, AOA Associate Vice President of State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



John Becher, DO  
President, AOA



Alpesh Desai, DO, FAOCD  
President, AOCD

CC: Boyd R. Buser, DO, AOA President-elect  
Joseph Giaimo, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs  
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Bob Williams, MS, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine

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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.