



January 29, 2015

The Honorable Sam C. Mims, V
Chair, Mississippi House Public Health and Human Services Committee
Mississippi Capitol
Room: 104-B
PO Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215

Dear Chairman Mims:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association (MOMA) are writing to encourage you to support HB 673. The legislation would prevent a minor under 18 years of age from using an artificial tanning device at a tanning facility. The AOA, AOCD and MOMA support imposing appropriate safety precautions and educational requirements upon tanning device operators, but believe that the proposed law fails to adequately protect the health of Mississippi minors.

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. MOMA is a professional organization that represents nearly 450 DOs providing patient care in Mississippi.

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

¹ 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>.

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 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 Mississippi's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting HB 673.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Juhasz, DO, FACOI, FACP
President, AOA



Rick Lin, DO, FAOCD
President, AOCD



W. Ashley Hood, DO
President, MOMA

CC: John W. Becher, DO, AOA President-elect
Ronald R. Burns, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs
Susan C. Sevensma, DO, Chair, AOA Bureau of State Government Affairs
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, AOA Executive Director and CEO
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Linda Mascheri, Vice President, AOA State, Affiliate & International Affairs
Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, AOA State Government Affairs
Marsha A. Wise, BS, Executive Director, AOCD
Ed Williams, PhD, Executive Director, MOMA

² 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.

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*.