



March 30, 2017

The Honorable Keith Regier  
Chairman  
Montana State Senate Judiciary Committee  
PO Box 200500  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Chairman Regier:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the Montana Osteopathic Medical Association (MOMA) are writing regarding HB 478.** The amended version of this bill would prohibit the use of artificial tanning devices by minors under 16, and creates an exception for parental consent. The AOA, AOCD and MOMA strongly support restricting the use of tanning devices, which can have serious long-term health consequences including cancer, by all minors under the age of 18. We urge you to amend this bill to prohibit the use of tanning devices by minors under 18 and remove the exception for parental consent.

The AOA represents nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic 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](http://www.osteopathic.org). 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. MOMA is a professional medical organization that represents over 200 DOs providing patient care in Montana.

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>

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

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<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>.

The Honorable Keith Regier

March 30, 2017

Page 2

tanning, as they subject themselves to additional years of artificial UV exposure.<sup>4</sup> For this reason, our organizations support the WHO recommendation 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 Montana's citizens from artificial UV exposure by amending HB 478.** 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](mailto:nschilligo@osteopathic.org) or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



Boyd R. Buser, DO  
President, AOA



Alpesh Desai, DO, FAOCD  
President, AOCD



Patrick Galvas, DO  
President, MOMA

CC: Mark A. Baker, DO, AOA President-elect  
William J. Burke, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs  
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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.