

January 26, 2015

The Honorable Frank Kotowski
Chair, New Hampshire House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Kotowski:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the New Hampshire Osteopathic Association (NHOA) are writing to encourage you to support HB 136. 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 NHOA 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 New Hampshire 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. NHOA is a professional organization that represents nearly 350 DOs providing patient care in New Hampshire.

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

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>.

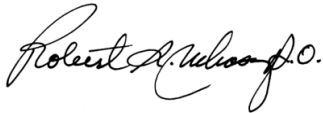
² IARC, Sunbeds and UV Radiation, July 7, 2009, available at http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php.

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 New Hampshire's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting HB 136.** 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,



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President, AOA



Rick Lin, DO, FAOCD
President, AOCD



Frank Hubbell, DO
President, NHOA

CC: John W. Becher, DO, AOA President-elect
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³ 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>.

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*.