



February 20, 2017

The Honorable Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Chairman  
New Mexico State House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee  
P.O. Box 2134  
Milan, New Mexico 87021

Dear Chairman Alcon:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association (NMOMA) are writing to strongly encourage you to support HB 212.** This bill would prohibit the use of artificial tanning devices by minors unless the use of the tanning device is prescribed by a health care provider to treat a medical condition. The AOA, AOCD and NMOMA strongly support restricting the use of tanning devices, which can have serious long-term health consequences including cancer, by minors.

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). 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. NMOMA is a professional medical organization that represents over 250 osteopathic physicians in New Mexico.

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, 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>.

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 New Mexico's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting HB 212.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nick Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

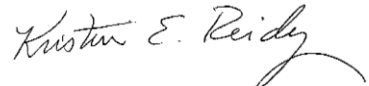
Sincerely,



Boyd R. Buser, DO  
President, AOA



Alpesh Desai, DO, FAOCD  
President, AOCD



Kristin E. Reidy, DO  
President, NMOMA

CC: Mark A. Baker, DO, AOA President-elect  
William J. Burke, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs  
Richard Thacker, DO, Chair, AOA Bureau of State Government Affairs  
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, AOA Chief Executive Officer  
Laura Wooster, Senior Vice President, AOA Public Policy  
Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, AOA State Government Affairs  
Marsha A. Wise, BS, Executive Director, AOCD  
Ralph McClish, Executive Director, NMOMA

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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.