



May 20, 2013

The Honorable Jeffrey Sanchez
House Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
Massachusetts State House, Room 130
24 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Sanchez,

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the Massachusetts Osteopathic Society (MOS) and the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) are writing to encourage you to support SB 1105. This bill would prohibit persons under the age of 18 from using a tanning device. The AOA, MOS and AOCD support imposing appropriate safety precautions upon tanning facilities.

The AOA proudly represents its professional family of more than 100,000 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 colleges; and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. MOS is a divisional (state) society of the AOA that represents the interests of nearly 900 DOs licensed in Massachusetts. 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 devices work by bombarding the skin with UV radiation. Tanning facilities 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 Just last year, 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 devices is an effective means to protect them from the long-term health risks associated with indoor tanning. Young people are at a heightened risk of developing skin cancer from indoor tanning, as they subject themselves to additional years of

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.

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>.

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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 devices by children is inappropriate and should be banned due to its long-term health effects. **We urge you to protect Massachusetts' children from artificial UV exposure by supporting SB 1105 in committee.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, AOA Director of State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



Ray E. Stowers, DO, FACOFP dist.
President, AOA



Pamela Grimaldi, DO
President, MOS



David Grice, DO, FAOCD
President, AOCD

CC: Norman E. Vinn, DO, AOA President-elect
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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.