



Nevada Osteopathic
Medical Association

May 14, 2013

The Honorable David P. Bobzien
Chair, Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor
401 S. Carson Street, Room 4114
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Dear Chairman Bobzien:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the Nevada Osteopathic Medical Association (NOMA) are writing to strongly encourage you to support SB 267. The bill prohibits an owner or operator of a tanning establishment allowing children under the age of 18 to use the tanning equipment. The bill imposes civil fines on those who allow children under the age of 18 to use the tanning equipment. The bill also requires an owner or operator of a tanning establishment to post warning signs in conspicuous locations. A qualified person must be present at the tanning facility during operation hours knowledgeable about the equipment and its safety features. Additionally, an individual using the tanning equipment must use protective eyewear. The AOA, AOCD and NOMA support imposing appropriate safety precautions upon tanning device operators.

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. 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. NOMA represents the osteopathic physicians practicing in Nevada.

Tanning equipment works by bombarding the skin with 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 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

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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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 (AAD) 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 by children is inappropriate and should be banned due to its long-term health effects. In addition, adults who choose to patronize tanning facilities deserve to be made aware of the dangers of exposure to UV radiation. **We urge you to protect Nevada's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting SB 267 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



David Grice, DO, FAOCD
President, AOCD



Charles H. McSwain, DO
President, NOMA

CC: Norman E. Vinn, DO, AOA President-elect
Mark A. Baker, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs
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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*.