



May 10, 2013

The Honorable Matthew E. Baker
Chair, House Committee on Health
108 Ryan Office Building
PO Box 202068
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Baker:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA), the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society (POFPS) and the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) are writing to strongly encourage you to support HB 1259. This bill would prohibit tanning facilities from allowing children younger than 17 years from using tanning facilities, and children older than 17 but younger than 18 would need written parental authorization. In addition, the bill also has requirements for tanning facilities to display warning signs and provide information on the dangers of tanning. The AOA, POMA, POFPS 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. POMA is a professional organization that represents the over 7,500 DOs providing patient care in Pennsylvania. POFPS is a professional specialty organization that represents 975 DOs providing family treatment and primary care in Pennsylvania. 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.

Sun lamp tanning devices work 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

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.

most common form of skin cancer, non-melanoma skin cancer, in addition to the deadliest form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma.³

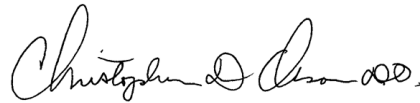
Prohibiting minors from using tanning devices is an effective means to protect them from the long-term health risks associated with indoor tanning. Young people are at a heightened risk of developing skin cancer from indoor tanning, as they subject themselves to additional years of artificial UV exposure.⁴ 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

Sun lamp tanning devices have long-term health effects and their use by children should be restricted. **We urge you to protect Pennsylvania's children from artificial UV exposure by supporting HB 1259 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.

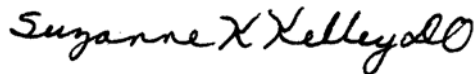
Sincerely,



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



Christopher D. Olson, DO
President, POMA



Suzanne K. Kelley, DO
President, POFPS



David Grice, DO, FAOCD
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³ Elizabeth Fernandez, [Tanning Beds Linked to Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer](http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-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*.