



January 29, 2013

The Honorable Kathy Campbell
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Chairwoman Campbell:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) are writing to strongly encourage you to support LB 132. This bill would prohibit tanning facilities from allowing children under the age of 18 from using tanning equipment. The bill would also require warning signs to be conspicuously posted in tanning facilities to inform consumers of the dangers of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The AOA and AOCD support imposing appropriate safety precautions and educational requirements 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.

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 (IARC), 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](http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm186687.htm), May 11, 2010, *available at* <http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm186687.htm>.

² IARC, [Sunbeds and UV Radiation](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php), 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](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>.

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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 Nebraska's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting LB 132 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

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*.