

RAISED BILL No.263 AN ACT ESTABLISHING TANNING SALONS
Chairs Senator Jonathan Harris, Representative Betsy Ritter, and Members
of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Jane D. Campo. I live in Fairfield, Connecticut. I am a wife, mother of three children, and have been a Registered Nurse for 27 years. I have Melanoma.

I was diagnosed June 2009. I have been getting biopsies every three months. There was a time between June and September that I referred to Wednesdays as "slice and dice Wednesdays". I was fortunate enough to find it, before I had to endure chemotherapy. I have only had to take time from my life,...work, being with my family and friends for small hours out of the day. I am one of the lucky ones so far. I say so far because this past Wednesday I had 5 more biopsies done and am currently waiting results. I am SCARED!!!!!! There isn't a day since June 10th^h that I haven't thought about my "spots". Are they cancer; am I going to find more, after all I had one removed and went to get that excised to my bone and found another "spot" that turned to Melanoma too!

I will admit I was as a young teenager back in the 70's, I loved a great tan. I wanted that "HEALTHY" glow. I would lie in the sun for hours, and was one of the first to go to the TANNING BOOTHS. I referred to them as the "clam" because of the way we laid in them and pulled the top piece of the bed down as close as we could to get all the rays. I stopped going to the tanning beds when I was in my twenties and hadn't gone back until June of 2009. It had been 31 years that I wasn't in a tanning booth, and it was also when I was told I have CANCER. I cried when I found out I have Cancer; Melanoma, the worst of all skin cancers to boot! My family cried; so many thoughts went through my head of not seeing them for long. Not being there because I was in a hospital getting treatment or dying or maybe dying at home orAll these thoughts plus many others went through my head. Even as a RN. I could never realize how much power the word CANCER holds. All these years helping those to be comfortable and doing the same for their families, well it was my turn now. I ask you, have you been told you have cancer? Has your mother, child, friend, grandparent been diagnosed with cancer? If so and more than likely, you know how horrific it feels. Did you ever ask the question "Could they have prevented it in some way?"

I am here today to try to do just that. I want to prevent CANCER in some way. I didn't know what I was getting into 30 years ago. I knew the sun wasn't good and caused wrinkles and left your skin like leather but I didn't know the tanning bed would do that and more. I didn't know that before the age of 30 if you go into the tanning booths you were 75% more likely to get MELANOMA. I found out first hand. It was the 8th exposure to the 5 minute tanning session in May that I saw a "spot" on my leg turn "shiny", it changed. I covered it and went to the tanning sessions 7 more times. I then noticed a very small "spot" on the middle of my calf, on the other leg. It was strange to me. I was now aware; I had gone back to the tanning beds and better get this looked at quickly. This was my first Melanoma .15mm deep. It now has left an ugly scar, but I'm here to tell about it. The one that changed was deemed "in situ". It had just turned to Melanoma, another scar to add to my soon to be collection.

I leave you with my fears of the future, and my hopes to keep others alive. I ask of you to make this Bill pass, like tobacco products, please DO NOT let kids under the age of 18 go to tanning salons. Give them a better chance than I had to prevent CANCER. We all want this for our families, friends and our future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane D Campo RN BSN CWCC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane D Campo RN. BSN. CWCC.