
**Statement of the Indoor Tanning Association
Before the Committee on Public Health
Senate Bill 972
February 23, 2011**

The Indoor Tanning Association is a trade organization representing manufacturers and suppliers of indoor tanning equipment as well as indoor tanning salons nationwide. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments in regard to Senate Bill 972, *An Act Protecting Minors from the Health Risks Associated with the Use of Tanning Devices*.

Indoor tanning salons provide a legal and safe service that is desired by consumers in Connecticut and elsewhere.

We have a presence in Connecticut that should be noted: 460 tanning salons in Connecticut employ approximately 1,680 people. Two companies manufacture the lamps used in tanning beds worldwide: Light Sources, which employs approximately 400 people in Orange area and Future Industries, a major national distributor of indoor tanning products, employs 40 people at its Milford facility.

These statistics don't mean much if the tanning process isn't handled in a way that ensures our customers are never over-exposed or burned and it is. Our member salons work with customers day-in and day-out to ensure that their tanning is done responsibly and in moderation. The "Smart Tan Educational Program" is an industry model for providing detailed information to our customers.

ITA worked closely with your committee in the 2006 session to develop legislation that implemented a parental consent law for individuals under 16 years of age who wish to tan. This legislation (PA 06-195) was enacted and our member salons have implemented it effectively. We mention this simply to reiterate that ITA has a track record of working with you, not against you, on key public health issues relating to indoor sun tanning. We stand ready to do so again this session with regard to SB 972.

SB 972 would extend the parental consent requirement to minors under the age of 18, require that the parent or guardian accompany the minor to the tanning facility to sign the consent form and provide written material to the family about the health effects of tanning.

A number of our member tanning facilities already go well beyond the 2006 law and require parental consent for all minors. As a result, we can support SB 972. ITA would like to provide you with technical amendments to ensure that: 1) the rule pertaining to the parent accompanying the minor is for the initial when the consent form is signed and 2) that the written material may include a discussion of the positive health benefits of responsible tanning.

Again, responsible tanning is our primary goal with our customers. If you have any questions or need additional information on the indoor sun tanning sector, please contact Linda Kowalski, *The Kowalski Group, LLC*, our government relations representative in Connecticut. Thank you.