Statement of Paul Harrington  
Director of Sales, Tommy’s Tanning, Inc  
Before the  
Public Health Committee  
Senate Bill 972  

AN ACT PROTECTING MINORS FROM THE HEALTH RISKS  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF TANNING DEVICES.  

February 23, 2011  

Senator Stillman, Representative Ritter and members of the committee:  

My name is Paul Harrington. I am the Director of Sales for Tommy’s Tanning, Connecticut’s largest tanning salon chain. We currently employ nearly 100 people, have 12 locations, and have operated successfully for 26 years. I joined Tommy’s Tanning 3 years ago after working in a national capacity for 8 years with California Tan, one of the largest tanning lotion manufacturers in the world.  

It has been and will continue to be our goal to protect EVERYONE, including minors, from the risks associated with the use of tanning devices.  

I would like to offer comments on Senate Bill 972,  

AN ACT PROTECTING MINORS FROM THE HEALTH RISKS  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF TANNING DEVICES.  

We respectfully submit that we have always gone beyond the current regulation. We currently require written parental consent for minors with PARENT PRESENT. At any time the Parent or Guardian has the right to revoke the privilege for the minor to tan.  

Secondly, we currently provide written material to all of our clients, including minors and parents and/or guardians of the risks associated with indoor tanning, including the potential risk of developing skin cancer in two ways. First, is our client consent form. Secondly, there are uniform FDA approved warning labels on each piece of equipment. These FDA warning labels reflect the uniqueness of each tanning device, AND the complicated approval process between manufacturers and the FDA.
We believe the bill’s requirement for written consent to the minor’s use of a tanning device from a parent or guardian accompanying the minor; needs to be clarified. We also believe that the written material given to the client should follow the approved FDA regulations.

We would respectfully urge the Public Health Committee to change the language of the bill to ensure meeting the goal of the bill without complicating everyone’s lives.

(1) provides written material **THAT FOLLOWS THE FDA REGULATIONS** concerning the health risks associated with the use of tanning devices, including the risks of developing skin cancer, to both the minor and a parent or guardian accompanying the minor **ON THEIR INITIAL VISIT**.

(2) obtain written consent to the minor’s use of the tanning device from a parent or guardian accompanying the minor **ON THEIR INITIAL VISIT**.

Thank you for hearing my comments. Tommy’s Tanning appreciates the opportunity being a part of this dialogue.