



**Public Health Committee Committee**  
**March 7, 2012**  
**American Cancer Society Testimony**

**RE: S.B. No. 54 An Act Concerning The Use of Indoor Tanning Devices By Persons Under Eighteen Years of Age**

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service. The American Cancer Society set ambitious goals for significantly reducing the rates of cancer incidence and mortality along with dramatically improving the quality of life for all people with cancer. In line with these goals, the Society advocates for public policies that will help reduce the risk of skin cancer associated with the use of indoor tanning devices.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States, with melanoma as one of the most common cancers diagnosed among young adults. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure from the sun is a known cause of skin cancer, and UV radiation exposure during childhood and adolescence increases the risk factor for a skin cancer diagnosis as an adult. We estimate 1290 Connecticut residents will be diagnosed with melanoma in 2012.

A meta-analysis published in the International Journal of Cancer found an increase in the risk for melanoma in people who first used sun-tanning facilities in their teen years and twenties. The study was a review of 19 informative studies. It concluded that use of sun tanning facilities before the age of 35 increases the risk for melanoma by 75 percent. The authors strongly suggested restrictions on the use of sun tanning facilities by minors. Largely based on the findings of that meta-analysis, in the summer of 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer raised the classification of UV-emitting indoor tanning devices, or sun tanning facilities, to the highest level of cancer risk – Group 1 – “carcinogenic to humans.”

The World Health Organization, the International Commission of Non-ionizing Radiation Protection, the National Toxicology Program (US), the National Radiological Protection Board (UK), the National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia) and EUROSKIN have all issued reports on the adverse health effects of the use of sun tanning facilities and have recommended that minors under the age of 18 not use them.

Additionally, most recently, the Yale School of Public Health released the results of an epidemiological study on basal cell carcinoma—which comprises 80% of nonmelanoma skin cancers. The study looked into why this disease is being diagnosed in ever increasing numbers among the non-traditional under-40 age set. The study concluded that indoor tanning was a strong risk factor and that people who used tanning devices were 69% more likely to develop early onset basal cell carcinoma than those that did not use such devices. The study adds that 27% of early onset diagnoses could be avoided if tanning devices were avoided.

The American Cancer Society supports legislative and regulatory initiatives at all levels of government to protect the public from increased skin cancer risk associated with exposure to ultraviolet radiation emitted by sun tanning facilities. More specifically, based on a review of the best science currently available, We support initiatives that would prohibit minors' use of sun tanning facilities due to an increased risk for skin cancer, ensure tanning salons are properly regulated, that effective enforcement provisions are in place and that all consumers are properly informed about the risk of using indoor tanning devices prior to use.

The American Cancer Society supports SB 54 and we urge a Joint Favorable Report.

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