

**Testimony of
Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

Bill SB 54

**TESTIMONY ON AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF INDOOR TANNING
DEVICES BY PERSONS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE**

**Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health
Committee:**

My name is Nancy Alderman. I am the President of Environment and Human Health, Inc., a non-profit organization comprised of ten members who are physicians and public health professionals in North Haven, CT.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is in strong support of Bill SB 54

This is a critical Bill for Connecticut if it is to better protect the public from early onset melanomas.

The science supporting the connection between tanning bed use and melanomas is now irrefutable.

The American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics has joined the World Health Organization, the American Academy of Dermatology and other medical groups asking that children under 18 years of age be restricted from using tanning beds. Pediatricians and governments should work to institute bans to keep children under 18 out of tanning salons, according to new guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Pediatrics/GeneralPediatrics/25085>

American Academy of Dermatology

The American Academy of Dermatology has declared the evidence of tanning beds and melanomas to be overwhelming and have asked that minors be restricted from tanning bed use. <http://skincancer.about.com/od/preventionandriskfactors/a/tanningsalons.htm>

The American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society recommends that the use of tanning beds is dangerous to one's health, and should be avoided. Young women in particular are the heaviest users of tanning beds, and, as noted in the cited report, are at the greatest risk of causing harm to themselves.

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/NWS/content/NWS_1_1x_Tanning_Beds_Pose_Definite_Cancer_Risk_Agency_Says.asp

The Lancet Oncology Medical Journal

A report in the Lancet Oncology Medical Journal, found using tanning beds could increase the risk of developing cancer by 75 percent, particularly if used by children and young adults. **The risk of skin melanoma is increased by 75 percent when use of tanning devices starts before 30 years of age," said the report.**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/sunbeds-raise-risk-of-skin-cancer-by-75-1764168.html>

The World Health Organization

The World Health Organization has ranked tanning beds alongside cigarettes, arsenic and asbestos as posing the greatest threat of cancer to humans according to World Health Organization (WHO).

<http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/news/20090728/who-tanning-beds-cause-cancer>

The Canadian Cancer Society

And the Canadian Cancer Society has recommended that minors be prohibited from tanning bed use.

California has recently banned tanning bed use for minors – the first state in the country to do this. Utah, Illinois, Maryland, Washington, Idaho, and Rhode Island all have pending Bills before their legislatures to ban tanning bed use for minors.

Why is it important now to restrict tanning bed use for minors and not simply requiring parental permission?

The United State Congress has just release a study of tanning salons in all 50 states, including Connecticut. That report is called, "*False and Misleading Health Information Provided to Teens by the Indoor Tanning Industry,*" and can be found at

<http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Tanning%20Investigation%20Report%202.1.12>.

The Report showed that:

1. Nearly all salons denied the known risks from tanning. Ninety percent of salons said that the salons did not pose a health risk.
2. Nearly 80% said tanning salons would be beneficial for one's health.
3. Tanning salons failed to follow FDA recommendations for how often one could tan.
4. Salons used many tactics to downplay the health risks of indoor tanning and said that tanning salons were not causing the rise in skin cancer but rather it was the increased use of sunscreens.

5. Tanning salons were targeting girls in their advertising --- offering student discounts especially during prom, homecoming, and back-to-school times.

With this report in place and with so many medical organizations asking that minors to be restricted from tanning bed use - it becomes important for Connecticut to do what the medical community is asking for.

Financial costs to the State.

Finally, studies show that the expense of treating one case of melanoma costs about \$170,000 --- and if newer drugs are added to the treatment - the total cost can go up to \$290,000. These costs are born in some measure by the State and the Federal Government as well as by private insurers. Can Connecticut continue to afford to absorb some of the enormous medical costs as the rates of melanomas among young people continue to rise and the use of tanning beds continue. I think not.

[http://messages.finance.yahoo.com/Stocks_\(A_to_Z\)/Stocks_V/threadview?m=tm&bn=122445&tid=138&mid=138&tof=10&frt=2](http://messages.finance.yahoo.com/Stocks_(A_to_Z)/Stocks_V/threadview?m=tm&bn=122445&tid=138&mid=138&tof=10&frt=2)

Thank you for your attention to this important Bill,

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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