

Bonhomme, Penny

From: Donna Regen [donna@dallasrelo.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 11:48 PM

To: PHC Testimony

Subject: Testimony on Bill No. 54

As a concerned citizen, I strongly urge you to support SB 54, which would place restrictions on the use of tanning beds by minors. I believe it is extremely important to protect the children of Connecticut and all states from the known human carcinogen of UV radiation.

My daughter Jaime was a frequent tanning bed user in high school and college until she was diagnosed with melanoma at age 20. She fought a hard and courageous battle for 9 years until the melanoma won and took her life. Jaime would be the first to tell you if she could that no tan is worth dying for.

The World Health Organization labeled UV radiation from tanning beds as "carcinogenic to humans." They are in the same risk category as cigarettes and we do not allow anyone under the age of 18 to purchase tobacco products. Unlike other Group 1 carcinogens such as alcohol and tobacco, we allow our children to use a tanning bed. This sends a confusing message about the dangers of artificial UV exposure, which is 10-15 times the concentration of the sun.

In 2012, over 76,000 new melanoma cases will be diagnosed in the US, of which many of those melanoma cases will be reported in Connecticut. Connecticut has the 11th highest ranking for new melanoma cases per capita in the US.

In the last 30 years, the incidence of melanoma among young women has increased as much as 50%. Melanoma is now the leading cause of cancer death in women aged 25-29 and second in the 15-29 age group. It is also second only to breast cancer in women aged 30-34. The rising rate of melanoma is, in part, due to the popularity of tanning salons among young women.

The World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Dermatology have recommended that no one younger than the age of 18 use tanning bed radiation.

In response to the Indoor Tanning Industry's claims that jobs will be lost and this will be a hardship on small business: When spray tanning booths, a safe alternative, have replaced tanning beds, many tanning salons across the US have seen increased business and revenues. Also the ITA has stated themselves that only a small percent of their clients are minors, which indicates that this bill should not negatively impact

businesses. Also keep in mind the financial implications of the fact that melanoma ranks second among all cancers in years of productive life lost and that the estimated total direct cost associated with the treatment of melanoma in 2010 was \$2.36 billion.

And in response to the ITA's suggestion that whether children use tanning beds should be the parent's decision, it has been shown that parental consent laws are not working. If a parent had all the correct information to make an informed decision, none of them would ever sign over their child's health or life to a tanning salon. To make matters even worse, as published recently in a US Congressional report, the indoor tanning industry is giving false and misleading information to teens and their parents about the health "benefits" of tanning beds. There are no safe tanning beds, and no tan is healthy!

In the interest of protecting teens from the early onset of serious medical conditions, I strongly urge you to support SB54. There is NO good reason why our kids need to bake in tanning beds!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Donna Regen
<http://t.co/dTyKMVil>