



March 1, 2012

Connecticut Public Health Committee

Re: SB 54

Dear Public Health Committee Members

AIM at Melanoma urges you to support SB 54, which would prohibit children and teenagers under 18 years of age from using these harmful devices.

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is known to cause melanoma, which is the most common and deadliest form of skin cancer among young adults. Melanoma is the leading cause of cancer death in women ages 25-30 and is second only to breast cancer women aged 30-34. The rising rate of melanoma is, in part, due to the popularity of tanning salons among young women.

In 2012, over 76,000 new melanoma cases will be diagnosed in the U.S. of which Connecticut ranks as having the ninth highest number of new melanoma cases per capita.

The current statute **does not** protect the youth of Connecticut from the dangers of tanning beds. As demonstrated by a recent report released by the U.S. Committee on Energy and Commerce Committee, the tanning industry continues to deny known risks of tanning beds, provides false and misleading statements to teens about the health benefits of indoor tanning beds, and fails to follow recommendations by the Food and Drug Administration on tanning frequency.

In addition, unlike other Group 1 carcinogens such as alcohol and tobacco, allowing parents to decide whether their children can use a tanning bed sends a confusing message about the dangers of artificial UV exposure, which is 10-15 times the concentration of the sun. See <http://www.aad.org/media-resources/public-service-advertisements/view-psa>

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

For these reasons, AIM strongly urges your support of Senate Bill 54.

Samantha Guild
Patient Advocate