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**Statement of Paul Harrington
Director of Sales, Tommy's Tanning, Inc
Before the
Public Health Committee
March 15, 2013**

Senate Bill 872

Senator Gerrata, Representative Johnson 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 14 locations, and have operated successfully for 27 years. I joined Tommy's Tanning four years ago after working in a national capacity for eight 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.

We respectfully submit that we have always gone beyond the current regulation. We, along with other tanning salons in Connecticut, have implemented a protocol that prohibits tanning by individuals under 16 without a doctor's order. Further, teens 16 and 17 can tan but must have the written consent of a parent or guardian. Finally, our protocol requires that this policy be prominently displayed in all of our offices.

I know you are aware of the current state law on parental consent—it applies to customers under the age of 16. We go well beyond the current law in this, and other, respects.

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 four ways. First, is our client consent form. Second, 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. Thirdly, we have the same "Danger" signs required by bed manufactures per the FDA regulations, posted at all of our front counters for clients to review. And finally, all of our staff is "Smart Tan Certified", educated about the tanning process in order to minimize risks.

We take our responsibility very seriously and we work with our clients to make sure they tan responsibly. This decision should be left to families to make and not the government.

Our salons are state-of-the-art, safe and clean. If you tell a minor who is 17 and nearing legal adulthood that he or she cannot do something, they will probably think of a way to get around the prohibition. Maybe they will stay outdoors, tanning longer and over-exposing in an uncontrolled environment. Or, they might visit a friend's home who has a tanning bed and tan without any limit or in a way that not follow any industry guidelines. Either way, I would just urge you to think of possible unintended consequences of this bill.

Our industry in Connecticut has stepped up to the plate on this issue. Our protocol to limit tanning by teens under 16 and require parental consent for 16 and 17 year-olds has been implemented and is working. The industry is regulating itself and I would ask that you respect this process and permit us to continue to do so through the balance of 2013.

If you would decide to press forward with legislation, we would urge you to take our minors' protocol and substitute it into the underlying bill. That way you will have restrictions on tanning by minors while still permitting those teens who are near legal adulthood to tan. Our protocol makes sense and is a sound compromise on this issue.

Thank you for hearing my comments. Tommy's Tanning appreciates the opportunity being a part of this dialogue and we would be happy to discuss the issue further as the legislative process proceeds this session.