



March 2, 2018

The Honorable Terry Gerratana  
Co- Chair, Public Health Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
Delivered via email: [Gerratana@senatedems.ct.gov](mailto:Gerratana@senatedems.ct.gov)

The Honorable Heather Somers  
Co- Chair, Public Health Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
Delivered via email:  
[Heather.Somers@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Heather.Somers@cga.ct.gov)

The Honorable Jonathan Steinberg  
Co-Chair, Public Health Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
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**RE: Support SB 219 – Indoor Tanning**

Dear Chairwoman Gerratana, Chairwoman Somers, Chairman Steinberg:

On behalf of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA), a surgical specialty organization representing over 6,300 physician members, I am writing to support Senate Bill 219 to ban indoor tanning for minors under the age of 18. As dermatologists, we dedicate our lives to promoting habits in our patients that ensure healthy skin. This effort to protect minors from the dangers of indoor tanning has been trending nationwide, with many states and the District of Columbia all instituting similar measures.

**Melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, has been linked to indoor tanning.** Each year, more than 400,000 cases of skin cancer, including both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, are linked to indoor tanning in the U.S. alone<sup>1</sup>. A scientific paper entitled *Recent Tanning Bed Use: A Risk Factor for Melanoma* stated that sun or UV radiation is one of the primary causal factors in the development of melanoma and that indoor tanning increases one's risk of melanoma<sup>2</sup>. Another study found that individuals who have used a tanning bed 10 or more times in their lives have a 34% increased risk of developing melanoma compared to those who have never used tanning beds.<sup>3</sup> It is estimated that the annual cost of treating skin cancers in the U.S. is estimated at \$8.1 billion. Minors, amongst whom tanning is especially

<sup>1</sup> Wehner MR, Chren M, Nameth D, et al. International Prevalence of Indoor Tanning: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Jama Dermatol.* 2014 Apr; 150(4):390-400. Doi: 10.1001/jamadermatol.2013.6896.

<sup>2</sup> Buckel, T; et al; Recent Tanning Bed Use: A Risk Factor for Melanoma. *Arch Dermatol.* 2006; 142: 485-488.

<sup>3</sup> Colantonio S, Bracken MB, Beecker J. The association of indoor tanning and melanoma in adults: systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2014; 70(5):847-857.e1-118. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2013.11.050. Epub 2014 Mar 12

dangerous and prevalent, should be restricted from using indoor tanning devices to help protect them from the dangers of skin cancer associated with tanning at a young age.

**Age restrictions on indoor tanning work.** The U.S. Surgeon General notes that “indoor tanning laws, particularly those that include age restrictions, appear to be effective in reducing indoor tanning among female high school students, who have the highest rates.” According to the CDC’s 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance report, 7.3% of high school students had used an indoor tanning device at least once during the twelve months before the survey.<sup>4</sup> Which is why the Surgeon General includes age based tanning laws in the Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer.<sup>5</sup>

**Indoor Tanning is ranked within the World Health Organization’s highest cancer-risk category.**

In 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the cancer division of the World Health Organization, classified tanning beds as "carcinogenic to humans" — the agency's highest cancer-risk category, which also includes asbestos, cigarette smoke, plutonium, radon gas, and radium. Total doses of ultraviolet rays from a tanning bed may be as much as five times more than natural sunlight. This means that 20 minutes spent in a tanning salon may be equal to 2-3 hours in the noontime sun, according to a 2008 scientific article in *Dermatologic Surgery*.<sup>6</sup> Acknowledging the popularity of indoor tanning amongst teens, the World Health Organization and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection have recommended that indoor tanning be restricted to only those ages eighteen and older.

For these reasons, we urge the passage of Senate Bill 219. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Emily Ninnemann, Manager of Advocacy and Practice Affairs, at (847) 956-9121, or by email at [eninnemann@asds.net](mailto:eninnemann@asds.net).

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Donofrio, MD, President  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association

cc: Members of Public Health Committee

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<sup>4</sup> Kann L, McManus T, Harris W, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2015. MMWR Surveill Summ 2016;65(SS-6): 1-178.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General; 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Ibrahim, S; Brown, M; Tanning and Cutaneous Malignancy. *Dermatol Surg*. 2008;34:460–474.