



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
of the American College of Surgeons
Professional Association, Inc.

**Testimony on Senate Bill 219 An Act Concerning Indoor Tanning
Public Health Committee
March 5, 2018**

Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the organizations listed above, please accept this testimony in support of **SB 219 An Act Concerning Indoor Tanning**.

The hazardous effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiations are undisputed: skin cancer formation, premature aging of the skin, cataract formation, impairment of the immune system, photosensitizing reaction with various drugs and or aggravation of certain systemic diseases. The toxic effects of excessive exposure to UV tanning bed exposure was recently classified as a **Category I “carcinogenic to humans”** by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). This essentially places tanning bed radiation in the same toxic category as tobacco and tobacco smoking, mustard gas, and plutonium, among other carcinogenic agents.

Even with well-documented risks of tanning devices, the high volume of use by minors is alarming. Many comprehensive studies demonstrating the correlation between the use of such machines by minors and skin cancer has led many experts to believe this is why skin cancer, including deadly melanomas, is the second most common form of cancer among young people 15 to 29 years old. Even more worrisome, this age cohort is experiencing an increase in incidence.

With such clear science behind the health hazards associated with the use of tanning beds, particularly by those under 18, we urge this committee to pass legislation completely banning the use of tanning beds by minors. There is simply no safe approach for minors to tan using tanning beds. The risks are too great and the rewards too small.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony today. Please protect our children by prohibiting the use of indoor tanning beds by minors who may not know, fully appreciate or adequately weigh the risks relative to benefits of even short exposures to this potentially deadly radiation.