



Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation
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VIA EMAIL

April 5, 2011

The Honorable Curren Price
Chair, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee
California General Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2057
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Passage of SB 746- Tanning Facility Safety Standards

Dear Sen. Price & Members of the Business, Professions and Economic Development Comm.

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation, a nationally recognized non-profit charity dedicated to melanoma education, advocacy and research, to request your support to pass SB 746. The Foundation was founded in 2004, to carry on the fight against this deadly disease which my wife struggled with for over 15 years.

First, let me congratulate you for considering this vital health and safety legislation, to ban the use of tanning beds by minors under the age of 18. The basis for this is the growing evidence that such use by minors can lead to melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. We supported Howard County, Maryland's historic initiative for a similar ban that when enacted, and to date, continues to attract praise as the only jurisdiction in the nation with a total teen ban to protect our most precious resource – our youth. Passage of SB 746 in California, and similarly among numerous other states considering identical legislative protection measures for minors, would elevate California into the forefront. Failing to do so, will simply perpetuate the serious harmful effects and risks presented our young people. In fact, the risks and consequences are already very well documented according to these compelling statistics:

- MELANOMA SKIN CANCER IS THE MOST COMMON CANCER AMONG YOUNG ADULTS, AGES 25-29; AND,
- MELANOMA SKIN CANCER IS THE SECOND MOST COMMON CANCER AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS, AGES 15-29!

These frightening statistics should provide the necessary impetus to pass the proposed legislation. There is much more evidence that my medical colleagues addressed at your earlier hearing on the bill, that link the use of tanning beds to skin cancer, and its most deadly form – melanoma. I will offer only several facts for your consideration:

- Melanoma incidence has been increasing for the past 30 years and accelerating in young white women since 1992.
- In spite of the tanning industry's claims, there is no such thing as a safe tan, just as there is no such thing as a safe cigarette.
- The intensity of UVA radiation produced by large powerful tanning units may be 10-15 times higher than the normal sun.

The Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation
...the voice for melanoma prevention, detection, care and cure!



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Additionally, the following organizations with unquestionable credibility support legislation prohibiting access to tanning beds by minors under the age of 18, the:

- World Health Organization,
- American Medical Association,
- American Academy of Dermatologists,
- American Academy of Pediatrics,
- American Cancer Society, and adamantly,
- Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation

The evidence in support of this legislation is overwhelming and cannot be disputed by the indoor tanning industry. As you deliberate on this crucial piece of legislation, think of the impact on our most precious resource, our children, if we fail to protect them from this harmful practice.

Thank you for your consideration and please vote to pass SB 746.

Most appreciatively,

Robert E. Nicolay
Chairman