

**For Immediate Release:**

June 10, 2015

**Bill to Repeal Tanning Tax Undermines Public Health**

“As the 70 undersigned organizations below, representing our nation’s physicians, nurses, physician assistants and public health advocates, we strongly support the current federal tax on indoor tanning and are deeply concerned that an effort to repeal sends the wrong message about public health.

“Scientific evidence shows that indoor tanning can raise a person’s chance of developing melanoma by 59 percent. It is estimated that indoor tanning contributes to more than 400,000 cases of skin cancer in the United States every year. The Food and Drug Administration, Surgeon General and World Health Organization have classified indoor tanning as a known carcinogen with a direct link to an increased risk of skin cancer.

“We believe the current tax law can serve as a deterrent to indoor tanning use that can ultimately help reduce the skin cancer burden and save lives in our country. Just as taxes on tobacco products led to steep declines in smoking and lung cancer rates, a tax on indoor tanning can help turn the tide on growing rates of skin cancer in the U.S.

“We urge Congress to maintain the current law as a strong message in recognition of the potentially fatal health risks associated with indoor tanning.”

American Academy of Dermatology Association  
AIM At Melanoma  
Alabama Dermatology Society  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Surgeons  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Mohs Surgery  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
Arizona Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society  
California Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery  
Center for a Healthy Maryland  
Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation  
Colette Coyne Melanoma Awareness Campaign  
Colorado Dermatologic Society  
Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Enright Melanoma Foundation

Entertainment Industries Council  
Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery  
Georgia Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery  
Greater Baltimore Dental Hygienists' Association  
Hawaii Dermatological Association  
Idaho Dermatologic Society  
Indiana Academy of Dermatology  
Iowa Dermatological Society  
Kansas Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery  
Louisiana Dermatological Society  
Kentucky Dermatological Association  
Maryland Dermatologic Society  
Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology  
Melanoma Foundation of New England  
Melanoma Research Alliance  
Melanoma Research Foundation  
Michigan Dermatological Society  
Minnesota Dermatological Society  
Mississippi Dermatological Society  
Missouri Dermatological Society  
New Hampshire Society of Dermatology  
New York State Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery  
North Carolina Dermatology Association  
North Carolina Medical Society  
Ohio Dermatological Association  
Oklahoma State Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society  
Oregon Dermatology Society  
Pennsylvania Academy of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Rhode Island Dermatological Society  
Society for Investigative Dermatology  
Society for Pediatric Dermatology  
Society for Public Health Education  
Sun Safety for Kids  
Tennessee Dermatology Society  
Texas Dermatological Society  
The Skin Cancer Foundation  
Vermont Dermatological Society  
Washington D.C. Dermatological Society  
Washington State Dermatology Association  
West Virginia Dermatological Society  
Wisconsin Dermatological Society  
Wyoming Academy of Dermatology