

For Immediate Release:

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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