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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