

September 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi

On behalf of the 47 undersigned organizations dedicated to harnessing every resource – scientific, medical, financial and educational – to fight against the scourge of cancer that threatens the lives and health of Americans, we write in strong opposition to the repeal of the indoor tanning tax in any legislation. The tanning tax appropriately reflects the carcinogenic effects of indoor tanning and it is the desire of our collective memberships that the current federal tax on this activity remain in place as a deterrent to harmful behavior.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services and the World Health Organization's International Agency of Research on Cancer panel have declared ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun and artificial sources, such as tanning beds and sun lamps, to be a known carcinogen (cancer-causing substance).¹ Evidence from multiple studies has shown that exposure to UV radiation from indoor tanning devices (which has significantly greater intensity than sun-produced UV radiation) is associated with an increased risk of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, including squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma.² Researchers estimate that indoor tanning may cause upwards of 400,000 cases of skin cancer in the U.S. each year.³

By helping to raise awareness of the dangers of indoor tanning, the tax also can serve as a deterrent to help mitigate the risks associated with indoor tanning, which are often not shared with customers of indoor tanning facilities. The indoor tanning industry has a history of misleading advertising, and the industry has been repeatedly cited by the Federal Trade Commission for misleading advertising.⁴

Current estimates indicate more than \$6 billion is spent annually on melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer treatment. Should the tax on indoor tanning be repealed, it would not only be removing a deterrent to indoor tanning, but it could also potentially lead to an increase in skin cancer and the cost of skin cancer treatment to the overall healthcare system. Furthermore, according the Joint Tax Commission repealing the tax could cost the American taxpayers \$400 million in missed revenue, a funding source that could be used to offset potential deficits or to fund other health care priorities.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Toxicology Program. Report on carcinogens, 14th ed: Ultraviolet-radiation-related exposures. 2016. <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/roc14/>

² The International Agency for Research on Cancer Working Group on artificial ultraviolet (UV) light and skin cancer "The association of use of sunbeds with cutaneous malignant melanoma and other skin cancers: A systematic review." International Journal of Cancer. 2007 March 1;120:111-1122.

³ Wehner MR, Shive ML, Chren MM, Han J, Qureshi AA, Linos E. Indoor tanning and non-melanoma skin cancer: systematic review and meta-analysis. BMJ. 2012 Oct 2;345:e5909

⁴ <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2010/01/indoor-tanning-association-settles-ftc-charges-it-deceived>

With our shared commitment in the fight against cancer, our organizations respectfully ask, in your consideration of changes to healthcare-related taxes, that you support maintaining and preserving the tax on indoor tanning services. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AIM at Melanoma
Alabama Dermatology Society
America Society For Radiation Oncology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network,
American Society For Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Mohs Surgery
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
California Society of Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery
Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation
Colette Coyne Melanoma Awareness Campaign
Colorado Skin Cancer Task Force
Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society
Dermatological Society of New Jersey
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Enright Melanoma Foundation
Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery
Georgia Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery
Idaho Dermatology Society
IMPACT Melanoma
Indiana Academy of Dermatology
Iowa Dermatological Society
Kentucky Dermatologic Association
Maine Dermatologic Society
Maryland Dermatologic Society
Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology
Melanoma Research Alliance
Melanoma Research Foundation
Michigan Dermatological Society
Minnesota Dermatological Society
New York State Society of Dermatology & Dermatological Surgery
North Carolina Dermatology Association
Ohio Dermatological Association
Outrun the Sun
Pennsylvania Academy of Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Rhode Island Dermatology Society
Sun Safety for Kids

Tennessee Dermatology Society
Texas Dermatological Society
The Skin Cancer Foundation
Washington State Dermatology Society
Wyoming Academy of Dermatology