

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

CANCER CENTER

To: Chairman Dan Hawkins
Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee

From: Roy Jensen, MD - Director, The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Re: House Bill 2369

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to the committee regarding the growing problem of skin cancer in the state of Kansas. I am Dr. Roy Jensen, Director at The University of Kansas Cancer Center. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the advocacy affiliate of The American Cancer Society (ACS), advocates for public policies that will help reduce the risk of skin cancer, including those which prohibit the use of indoor tanning devices among minors. ACS CAN supports HB 2369, prohibiting minors from using indoor tanning devices.

It's as plain and simple as this: indoor tanning causes cancer.

Individuals who use indoor tanning devices before the age of 35 increase their risk for melanoma – the most deadly type of skin cancer – by 59%. An estimated 820 new melanoma cases are expected in Kansas in 2016, and about 100 Kansans will die from melanoma this year.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified UV-emitting indoor tanning devices with the highest level of cancer risk “carcinogenic to humans,” just like tobacco and asbestos. Young people are especially susceptible to damage from indoor tanning devices. Kansans agree: children under the age of 18 should be prohibited from using indoor tanning facilities.

We don't let children smoke cigarettes, why should we let them tan?

Skin cancer is the number one cause of cancer in the United States, with melanoma being one of the most common cancers diagnosed among young adults. In fact, in the last thirty years, the number of Americans who have had skin cancer is estimated to be higher than the number for all other cancers combined.



Today, millions of people are diagnosed with skin cancer each year. About 2 percent of those cases, or about 70,000 cases, are melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer. The cost of skin cancer is not cheap, with totals exceeding \$8 billion each year - \$3.3 billion of that total is for melanoma treatment.

It is estimated that over 400,000 skin cancer cases in the United States are attributed to indoor tanning each year including 245,000 basal cell carcinomas, 168,000 squamous cell carcinomas, and 6,000 melanomas.

UV radiation from indoor tanning and other sources is cumulative over time. The earlier a person starts tanning, the greater the risk of getting melanoma and other skin cancers later in life.

You'd think that with all these facts about skin cancer, our youth would avoid indoor tanning. But that is, unfortunately not the case. There are several factors that increase youth tanning:

- * Youth get incorrect and false information from the indoor tanning industry about the risks of tanning.

- * A 2012 congressional committee report showed that tanning salons often deny the risks of tanning and indicate it is beneficial to a young person's health.

- * In 2010 the Federal Trade Commission settled with the Indoor Tanning Association regarding false health and safety claims.

- * Indoor tanning salons do not always follow recommended guidelines. For instance, 71 percent of tanning salons would allow a teen to tan more often than the 3 times per week recommended by the federal government.

A 2011 study published in the American Journal of Public Health found many factors that increase tanning among younger people. Youth were more likely to use a tanning device if they:

- Believed people with a tan look more attractive (80 percent more likely)
- Believed that their parents allowed them to use indoor tanning (80 percent more likely)
- Had a parent who used indoor tanning (70 percent more likely)
- Noticed advertisements for indoor tanning (70 percent more likely)
- Had a parent who believed people with a tan are more attractive (50 percent more likely)
- Lived within two miles of at least one indoor tanning facility (40 percent more likely)

The high rates of indoor tanning, and the associated harms, have increased awareness and action at all levels of government, from local to state and federal. This past year, the Surgeon General released a Call to Action on Skin Cancer calling for an increased effort to reduce exposure to UV radiation especially through the use of indoor tanning devices. In May 2014, the United States Food and Drug Administration reclassified tanning devices from a Class I to a Class II device. As part of the additional restrictions, device manufactures will have to include a visible black box warning stating that people younger than 18 years should not use the devices. In addition, one of the Healthy People 2020 objectives is to “reduce the proportion of adolescents in grades 9 through 12 who report using artificial sources of ultraviolet light for tanning.”

Because the science demonstrates that tanning devices cause cancer and that age restrictions can be effective at reducing teen tanning rates, ACS CAN supports HB 2369 to prohibit minors under the age of 18 from using indoor tanning devices, *without any exceptions*. To date, eight states have passed similar comprehensive legislation prohibiting the use of tanning devices by minors, without exception, in order to protect their state’s youth. Similar age restrictions on harmful substances and services have been placed on tobacco products and alcohol. Restricting access to indoor tanning bed use based on age is no different. Given what is known about the harmful effects of UV radiation from indoor tanning devices, especially among youth, Kansas should pass HB 2369 prohibiting minors from using indoor tanning devices.