



The Kansas School Nurse Organization

PO Box 12534, Wichita, KS 67277

Health and Human Services Committee

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Ronda Hutchinson, BSN, RN

Vice President of the Kansas School Nurse Organization

PO Box 12534

Wichita, KS 67277

HB No. 2369- An act concerning tanning facilities; prohibiting minors' access to a tanning device.

To: Rep. Dan Hawkins, Chair of the House Health and Human Services committee and members of the committee.

My name is Ronda Hutchinson and I am the Vice President of the Kansas School Nurse Organization. It is our mission to make sure Kansas students are healthy, safe and ready to learn. Healthy educated youth blossom into healthy productive adults.

I am writing to support HB no. 2369 as introduced.

For years, tanning salons have denied the risks. Not only kids, but the public in general do not realize that scientific evidence confirms these devices cause cancer. The World Health Organization has classified UV-emitting tanning devices with the highest level of cancer risk alongside cigarettes and thus Kansas should get on board with policymakers from 42 other states who have already put regulations in place restricting their use to minors.

As a parent of a 19 year old honor roll student and a pediatric nurse, I was always reminding her growing up to use sunscreen to protect herself from skin cancer. The discussion of indoor tanning came up a few times when my daughter was in high school. Even though her pediatrician and I have verbalized to her that indoor tanning causes cancer, she used one anyway. As teens become more independent they seek out new experiences. Teen brains are not fully developed yet which means their brain has trouble understanding the consequences of their actions. As a result, teens will often act impulsively rather than practically. They do not consider the ultimate consequences of their decisions. It is our responsibility as adults to guide youth away from risky behaviors which include those that cause cancer. We don't let our teens smoke and we should not allow them to use tanning devices either.

The CDC states the Youth Risk Surveillance Systems declares 29% of white high school girls report indoor tanning.

Healthy People 2020 goals for cancer reduction include decreasing Indoor Tanning with one objective being to reduce the proportion of adolescents in grades 9 through 12 who report using artificial sources of ultraviolet light for tanning.

Research indicates that high risk exposure happens more commonly in teens and that blistering sunburns and overexposure during childhood greatly increase the chances of developing skin cancer later in life. I received a blistering sunburn in a tanning bed when I was in high school. I thought it was safe, but now I know better.

Polls indicate that 69% of Kansas voters support this legislation. Attendance at this year's American Cancer Society Day at the Capitol has almost doubled due to the agreed importance of this legislation.

Let's send a clear message to the public by passing HB no. 2369. Skin cancer caused by tanning devices is a serious and deadly problem.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ronda Hutchinson, BSN, RN

Wichita, KS. 67212

Gr8RN2002@aol.com