



Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 343
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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Chairwoman Pilcher-Cook and members of the Committee:

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 opposes Senate Bill 343, which weakens safeguards on indoor tanning devices.

Skin cancer is a growing problem in Kansas.

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 percent.ⁱ Similarly, squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma are increased by 102 percent and 40 percent respectively when a tanning device is used before age 25.ⁱⁱ An estimated 820 new melanoma cases are expected in Kansas in 2016.ⁱⁱⁱ Approximately 100 Kansans will die from melanoma this year.^{iv}

Indoor tanning causes cancer.

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.^v The most avoidable risk factor for skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation through outdoor exposure to the sunlight or use of indoor tanning devices.^{vi} Exposure to UV radiation can cause changes in the DNA of skin cells which can lead to melanoma in the future.^{vii} Therefore no tan is considered “safe.”

Young people are especially susceptible to damage from indoor tanning devices.

Young people, especially girls, are frequent users of tanning beds. The rate of indoor tanning device use increases drastically as high school girls grow older, from 13 percent among 9th graders to 27 percent among 12th graders.^{viii} Because the harmful effects of UV exposure are cumulative over time, indoor tanning devices pose a higher risk for children and teens by increasing overall lifetime UV exposure.

Indoor tanning is not safe at any temperature or for any amount of time.

The science is clear – indoor tanning devices cause cancer. Instead of eliminating the maximum temperature, Kansas should be working to protect Kansans from the dangers of indoor tanning.

ⁱ Boniol, et. al. “Cutaneous melanoma attributable to sunbed use: systematic review and meta-analysis.” British Medical Journal. July 2012.

ⁱⁱ Wehner et al. “Indoor tanning and non-melanoma skin cancer :systematic review and meta-analysis.” British Medical Journal. October 2012

ⁱⁱⁱ American Cancer Society Cancer Facts and Figures 2016 Supplemental Material

^{iv} American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2016 Supplemental Material

^v Fatiha El Ghissassi, Robert Baan, Kurt Straif, Yann Grosse, Béatrice Secretan, Véronique Bouvard, Lamia Benbrahim-Tallaa, Neela Guha, Crystal Freeman, Laurent Galichet, Vincent Coglianò and on behalf of the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer Monograph Working Group. A review of human carcinogens — Part D: radiation. *The Lancet Oncology*. 2009; 10(8): 751-752.

^{vi} Lim HW, James WD, Rigel DS, Maloney ME, Spencer JM, Bhushan R. "Adverse effects of ultraviolet radiation from the use of indoor tanning equipment: time to ban the tan". *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2011;64:893–902.

^{vii} American Cancer Society. "Melanoma of the Skin". Atlanta: American Cancer Society;2013

^{viii} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States 2013.