



Testimony in support of House Bill 2369
Hilary Gee, Kansas Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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Chairman O'Donnell 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 supports House Bill 2369 prohibiting minors from using 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.

Kansans agree: children under the age of 18 should be prohibited from using indoor tanning facilities.

A recent poll found 69% of Kansas voters support protecting children and teens from indoor tanning devices.^{ix} Products and devices deemed harmful are often regulated to protect consumers, especially children. 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. As Kansas works to improve efficiency in policy making and budgeting,^x this is a budget neutral opportunity to prevent significant future costs related to cancer treatment and lost lives.

Because the science demonstrates that tanning devices cause cancer and that age restrictions can be effective at reducing teen tanning rates, ACS CAN supports House Bill 2369 to prohibit minors under the age of 18 from using indoor tanning devices, without exceptions.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

1315 SW Arrowhead Rd Topeka, KS 66604

785.438.5616 | @KansasACSCAN

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 Coglian 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.

^{ix} Statewide survey of Kansas voters, December 2013.

^x Alvarez & Marsal. "Kansas Statewide Efficiency Review." January 19, 2016.