



TESTIMONY HB 2369
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee

February 9, 2016

The Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents over 90% of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we are asking for passage of HB 2369 because of the positive effect it will have on the health of children and adolescents of the state.

The use of indoor tanning facilities by adolescents has been increasing in recent years. The use of these facilities especially among teenage girls increases as they progress through high school. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics by eighteen years of age 44% of white girls have used a tanning salon and 30% were frequent users.

The use of tanning devices has been associated with increased risk of skin cancers. The risk increases with each use. Studies have shown tanning under 35 years of age can increase the risk of developing melanoma by 75%. The earlier a teen begins indoor tanning the more hours of accumulated ultraviolet exposure that teen will have over their lifetime. This will significantly increase the risks of these deadly cancers.

We ask the Committee members to remember these important facts when considering this bill:

- There is a 75% increase in the risk of melanoma in those who have been exposed to UV radiation from indoor tanning and the risk increases with each use.
- Indoor tanners have a 69% increased risk of early-onset basal cell carcinoma.
- By the age of eighteen, 44% of white girls have used a tanning salon in the past year and 30% were frequent tanners using the facilities 10 or more times in that period.
- Children and adolescents are at particular risk of developing melanoma and other forms of skin cancer by using tanning beds that utilize artificial ultraviolet rays (UVR).
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children and adolescents younger than 18 years should be prohibited from using tanning beds.

The KAAP supports the policy of the AAP and recommends passage of HB 2369. Thank you.

Submitted by
Dennis M Cooley MD, FAAP
Legislative Coordinator
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics