THE KANSAS CITY SURGICAL SOCIETY

Committee Chair Hawkins and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas City Surgical Society, I would like to write in support of HB2369. Our organization represents surgeons who care for patients in the Kansas City area. Since melanoma is often treated with surgery first, our members are interested in measures that reduce the risk of developing skin cancer.

Exposure to ultraviolet light is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer, including malignant melanoma. Ultraviolet light exposure can be from both natural and artificial sources, particularly tanning beds. In 2009, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer listed ultraviolet radiation and indoor tanning beds as a Class I carcinogen (same class as cigarettes, benzene, and asbestos) .(2) The Food and Drug Administration reports that more than 30 million Americans use tanning beds annually.(3) Furthermore, the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System reported in 2011 that 13% of high school students used indoor tanning. More specifically, 29% of white high school girls used indoor tanning.(4)

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation is associated with increasing the risk of skin malignancy at all ages. Exposure at earlier ages, however, is associates with a higher risk of skin malignancy. The latency period for developing skin malignancy is usually greater than a decade. Using a tanning bed increases the risk for squamous cell carcinoma by 67% and basal cell carcinoma by 29%. This risk is particularly higher when the tanning bed use begins before 25 years of age.(5) Exposure to tanning beds before the age of 35 years is associated with a 75% increased risk of malignant melanoma. For this reason, limiting the use of tanning bed use by minors will have profound implications in reducing their risk of skin malignancy.

Sincerely,

Charles Snyder MD FACS

President

Kansas City Surgical Society

1. El Ghissassi F, Baan R, Straif K, et al. A review of human carcinogens—part D: radiation. Lancet Oncol 2009; 10:751-2.
2. http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/indoor_tanning.htm
3. Guy GP, Berkowitz Z, Watson M, et al. Indoor tanning among young non-Hispanic white females. JAMA Intern Med 2013; Aug 19.
4. Wehner, et al. (2012). " Indoor Tanning and non-melanoma skin cancer: systematic review and meta-analysis." British Medical Journal. October2012.
5. Dore, J-F and Chignol, M-C. (2012). "Tanning salons and skin cancer." Photochemical and Photobiological Sciences 2012; 11:30.