

Testimony of the Kansas Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
in support of HB 2369
House Health and Human Services Committee
February 9, 2016

To the Honorable Dan Hawkins, Chair
and members of the Committee:

The Kansas Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons is pleased to offer testimony in support of House Bill 2369 which would prohibit access to tanning facilities for individuals under 18 years of age.

People who use indoor tanning devices of any age are greatly increasing their risk of melanoma, and individuals under the age of 35 increase their risk by 59 percent. Tanning devices function by delivering a strong dose of UV light, and since exposure is *cumulative*, damage to the skin and associated problems is even worse when a person starts using indoor tanning at an early age.

It is estimated that 820 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in Kansas this year, and about 100 of our fellow citizens will die from the disease in 2016. Young people, and especially girls, tend to be frequent users of tanning beds. Without this reasonable, common sense regulation of indoor tanning facilities, many of those teenagers face a future that very well may include a highly deadly form of cancer that could have been prevented.

In addition to the obvious concerns about dermatological conditions, too much exposure to UV light also raises the risk of eye diseases, including cataract, growths on the eye, and cancer.

Kansas ophthalmologists – eye physicians and surgeons – are very pleased to join the Cancer Action Network to support House Bill 2369. Thank you for taking our views into consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Fry, MD
President
Kansas Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons