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Inspiring Quality:

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Chicago Headquarters:

633 N. Saint Clair Street
Chicago, IL 60611-3211

Voice: 312-202-5000

Fax: 312-202-5001

E-mail: postmaster@facs.org

Washington Office:

20 F Street, NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20001

Voice: 202-337-2701

Fax: 202-337-4271

E-mail: ahp@facs.org

www.facs.org

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March 15, 2016

Public Health and Welfare Committee

Kansas State Capitol

300 SW 10th Street

Topeka, KS 66612

Chairman O'Donnell and Committee Members:

The American College of Surgeons strongly supports H.B. 2369 – Prohibiting Minors' Access to a Tanning Device – and asks that the Health and Human Services Committee report this bill favorably to the Senate. Favorable passage of this bill will allow Kansas to join the over 40 states nationwide that restrict the availability of indoor tanning booths to minors and help keep our children safe.

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified ultraviolet (UV) radiation from tanning devices as carcinogenic to humans, and we believe it should be regulated. In a world where we do not allow our minor children to use tobacco products, consume alcohol, or ride in an automobile unrestrained, it's difficult to conceive why we allow them to engage in a carcinogenic activity such as indoor tanning.

Countless scientific studies have shown clear and compelling evidence that tanning bed use increases the risk of developing all forms of skin cancer, including melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. There is a 75 percent increase in the risk of developing melanoma with even minimal use of a tanning bed. The damage caused by UV radiation from tanning beds is cumulative and often irreversible. The earlier people start to tan, the higher their risk of developing skin cancer in their lifetimes.

The best way to treat cancer is to reduce the risk of developing it in the first place. Passing H.B. 2369 will keep minors from being exposed to tanning beds and the carcinogenic effect of tanning in these devices. In addition, H.B. 2369 would go a long way in helping to reduce the number of skin cancer patients in Kansas and improving the overall quality of health for minors in the state.

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We are proud to join the Kansas Chapter of The American College of Surgeons and numerous other medical organizations as we band together to protect those members of our society who are not able to fully protect themselves.

Again, the American College of Surgeons strongly urges your committee to favorably report H.B. 2369.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD FACS
Executive Director, American College of Surgeons

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