



## 2022-23 ASDSA Officers

Vince Bertucci, MD, FRCPC, **President**

Seth Matarasso, MD, **President-Elect**

Kavita Mariwalla, MD, **Vice President**

Anthony Rossi, MD, **Secretary**

Deirdre Hooper, MD, **Treasurer**

Sue Ellen Cox, MD, **Immediate Past President**

Katherine J. Duerdoth, CAE, **Executive Director**

June 26, 2023

The Honorable Alessandro Cutrona  
Chair, Committee on Health Provider Services  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Delivered electronically

### RE: Support HB 169 – Regards tanning by minors; physician titles

Dear Chairperson Cutrona/Members of the Committee on Health Providers Services:

On behalf of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA), representing 6,400+ dermatologic surgeons, I am writing to urge you to **support HB 169**, which would ban the use of tanning devices by minors. ASDSA members dedicate our lives to protecting patients against skin cancer and promoting healthy skin. We are extremely concerned with the long-lasting, harmful impacts of tanning, and urge you and your colleagues to take the necessary steps to protect Ohio teens from the dangers of indoor tanning.

**Melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, has been linked to indoor tanning.** Each year, more than 400,000 cases of skin cancer, including both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, are linked to indoor tanning in the U.S. alone.<sup>1</sup> A scientific paper entitled *Recent Tanning Bed Use: A Risk Factor for Melanoma* stated that sun or UV radiation is one of the primary causal factors in the development of melanoma and that indoor tanning increases one's risk of melanoma.<sup>2</sup> Another study found that individuals who have used a tanning bed 10 or more times in their lives have a 34% increased risk of developing melanoma compared to those who have never used tanning beds.<sup>3</sup> It is estimated that the annual cost of treating skin cancers in the U.S. is estimated at \$8.1 billion. Minors, amongst whom tanning is especially dangerous and prevalent, should be restricted from using indoor tanning devices to help protect them from the dangers of skin cancer associated with tanning at an early age.

<sup>1</sup> Wehner MR, Chren M, Nameth D, et al. International Prevalence of Indoor Tanning: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Jama Dermatol.* 2014 Apr; 150(4):390-400. Doi: 10.1001/jamadermatol.2013.6896.

<sup>2</sup> Buckel, T; et al; Recent Tanning Bed Use: A Risk Factor for Melanoma. *Arch Dermatol.* 2006; 142: 485-488.

<sup>3</sup> Colantonio S, Bracken MB, Beecker J. The association of indoor tanning and melanoma in adults: systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2014; 70(5):847-857.e1-118. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2013.11.050. Epub 2014 Mar 12.

American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA)

1933 N. Meacham Rd, Suite 650, Schaumburg, IL 60173

[asds.net](http://asds.net) | 847-956-0900

**Age restrictions on indoor tanning work.** The U.S. Surgeon General notes that “indoor tanning laws, particularly those that include age restrictions, appear to be effective in reducing indoor tanning among female high school students, who have the highest rates.” According to the CDC’s 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance report, 7.3% of high school students had used an indoor tanning device at least once during the twelve months before the survey,<sup>4</sup> which is why the Surgeon General includes age based tanning laws in the Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer.<sup>5</sup>

**Indoor tanning is ranked within the World Health Organization’s highest cancer-risk category.** In 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the cancer division of the World Health Organization, classified tanning beds as "carcinogenic to humans" — the agency's highest cancer-risk category, which also includes asbestos, cigarette smoke, plutonium, radon gas and radium. Total doses of ultraviolet rays from a tanning bed may be as much as five times more than natural sunlight. This means that 20 minutes spent in a tanning salon may be equal to 2-3 hours in the noontime sun, according to a 2008 scientific article in *Dermatologic Surgery*.<sup>6</sup> Acknowledging the popularity of indoor tanning amongst teens, the World Health Organization and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection have recommended that indoor tanning be restricted to only those ages eighteen and older.

For these reasons, we urge the passage of House Bill 169. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Kristin Hellquist, Chief Advocacy Officer at [khellquist@asds.net](mailto:khellquist@asds.net).

Sincerely,



Vince Bertucci, MD, FRCPC, President  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association

---

<sup>4</sup> Kann L, McManus T, Harris W, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2015. *MMWR Surveill Summ* 2016;65(SS-6): 1-178.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General; 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Ibrahim, S; Brown, M; Tanning and Cutaneous Malignancy. *Dermatol Surg*. 2008;34:460–474.