

March 23, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 27 undersigned organizations dedicated to harnessing every resource – scientific, medical, financial and educational – to fight against the scourge of cancer that threatens the lives and health of Americans, we write in strong opposition to the repeal of the indoor tanning tax in the American Health Care Act (AHCA). The tanning tax appropriately reflects the carcinogenic effects of indoor tanning and it is the desire of our collective memberships that the current federal tax on this activity remains in place as a deterrent to harmful behavior.

Approximately 7.8 million adult women and 1.9 million adult men in the United States tan indoors.¹ The United States Department of Health and Human Services and the World Health Organization's International Agency of Research on Cancer panel have declared ultraviolet radiation from the sun and artificial sources, such as tanning beds and sun lamps, to be a known carcinogen (cancer-causing substance).²

Evidence from multiple studies has shown that exposure to UV radiation from indoor tanning devices is associated with an increased risk of melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancer, including squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma.³ Researchers estimate that indoor tanning may cause upwards of 400,000 cases of skin cancer in the U.S. each year.⁴ Higher melanoma rates among young females compared to young males may be due in part to widespread use of indoor tanning among females.⁵

Studies have demonstrated that exposure to UV radiation during indoor tanning damages the DNA in the skin cells. Excessive exposure to UV radiation during indoor tanning can lead to premature skin aging, immune suppression, and eye damage, including cataracts and ocular melanoma.⁶ A recent

¹ Guy GP, Berkowitz Z, Holman D and Hartman A. Recent Changes in the Prevalence and Factors Associated With Frequency of Indoor Tanning Among U.S. Adults. *JAMA Dermatol* 2015; Published online July 1, 2015.

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Toxicology Program. Report on carcinogens, 14th ed: Ultraviolet-radiation-related exposures. 2016. <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/roc14/>

³ The International Agency for Research on Cancer Working Group on artificial ultraviolet (UV) light and skin cancer "The association of use of sunbeds with cutaneous malignant melanoma and other skin cancers: A systematic review." *International Journal of Cancer*. 2007 March 1;120:111-1122.

⁴ Wehner MR, Shive ML, Chren MM, Han J, Qureshi AA, Linos E. Indoor tanning and non-melanoma skin cancer: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ*. 2012 Oct 2;345:e5909

⁵ Guy GP Jr, Thomas CC, Thompson T, Watson M, Massetti GM, Richardson LC. Vital signs: melanoma incidence and mortality trends and projections - United States, 1982-2030. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2015 Jun 5;64(21):591-6

⁶ Lim HW, James WD, Rigel DS, Maloney ME, Spencer JM, Bhushan R. Adverse effects of ultraviolet radiation from the use of indoor tanning equipment: time to ban the tan. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2011 May;64(5):893-902

investigation estimated that 3,234 injuries related to indoor tanning — including burns, loss of consciousness and eye injuries — were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments every year from 2003 to 2012.⁷

With our shared commitment in the fight against cancer, our organizations respectfully ask for your support in maintaining and preserving the tax on indoor tanning services. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AIM at Melanoma
Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Mohs Surgery
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Dermatopathology
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Enright Melanoma Foundation
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Greater Baltimore Dental Hygienists' Association
Melanoma Foundation New England
Melanoma Research Alliance
Melanoma Research Fund
Moffitt Cancer Center
Oncology Nursing Society
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Skin Cancer Foundation
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

⁷ Guy G, Watson M, Haileyesus T, Annett J. Indoor tanning-related injuries in a national sample of US hospital emergency departments. JAMA Intern Med. Published online December 15, 2014