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Date: September 29, 2011

To: House Members

From: Rep. RoseMarie Swanger 

Subject: Co-sponsor Memo
Reintroduction of HB 369 from 2011-2012 Session
TANNING FACILITY REGULATION ACT

I am planning on reintroducing HB 369, my own bill from this 2011-2012 Session, which would prohibit anyone under the age of 18 from using an indoor tanning device.

Similar to legislation introduced in the Senate (SB 349) by Senator Browne, this legislation will address issues of concern with an industry that is currently unregulated in the Commonwealth. This legislation will provide the Department of Health with oversight over tanning facilities and provides for penalties, fines and possible loss of license for violations.

On June 1, 2011, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on my HB 369. Both written and oral testimony was provided from melanoma survivors, medical professionals and several advocacy groups, all of which overwhelmingly supported the fact that individuals who initiate the use of tanning devices at a younger age have a 75 percent increased risk for melanoma than those who never use tanning devices.

After further consideration, I believe the best approach is to first ensure tanning facilities have clear guidelines to follow and that there is someone at the state level who can enforce them. In addition, since the risk associated with the use of tanning devices and skin cancer is clearly not well understood by teens, young adults and their parents, this legislation will also contain a provision to prohibit the using tanning devices by anyone under the age of 18. This is the best way to save on rising insurance costs for melanoma treatment, and save lives.

If you are interested in joining me to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Lily Horst at 787-2686, or via email at lhorst@pahousegop.com.