



May 17, 2011

Re: 2011 - Pennsylvania House Bill 369

Dear Chairman Marsico,

AIM at Melanoma is the largest international melanoma foundation focused on melanoma research, education, awareness, and legislation.

AIM strongly urges you to support **House Bill 369**, which seeks to ban the use of indoor tanning services by individuals under 18 years of age, and will be heard before the Judiciary Committee on June 1, 2011. AIM feels it is extremely important to protect the children of Pennsylvania from this known human carcinogen.

AIM is concerned about the growing incidence of skin cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer, a division of the World Health Organization, has moved UV radiation from tanning beds to its highest cancer risk category, labeling it as "carcinogenic to humans."

Those who use a tanning bed before 20 years of age or more than 10 tanning bed sessions during their lifetime double their risk of melanoma.

This year, more than 2 Million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States. Melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, is now the second most common cancer in women aged 20–29. It is the leading cause of cancer death in women ages 25–30 and is second only to breast cancer women aged 30–34.

In 2010, approximately 68,000 people in the United States were diagnosed with melanoma, of which 8,650 died from this disease. **Last year, Pennsylvania reported approximately 3,550 new cases of melanoma and an estimated 426 people in Pennsylvania die from this disease every year. In fact, Pennsylvania has the fifth highest number of new melanoma cases in the country.**

With these statistics come staggering health care costs. In 2004, the total direct cost associated with treating just non-melanoma skin cancer was \$1.5 Billion - \$1.2 Billion was attributed to care received in a physician's office.

The World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Dermatology have recommended that no one under the age of 18 use tanning parlor radiation.

In the interest of protecting teens from the early onset of serious medical conditions, AIM strongly asks that you support House Bill 369.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Samantha Guild
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