

**Swanger remarks for House Judiciary Committee 06/01/11**

**Chairman Marsico, Chairman Caltigarone, committee members, thank you for agreeing to hold this hearing on my bill and for the opportunity to address you this morning.**

**I am here today as prime sponsor of House Bill 369, legislation that would prevent any business from allowing anyone under the age of 18 from using an indoor tanning device.**

**I did not have to look very far to find the impetus for this bill.**

**\*\*\*\*\*INTRODUCE SISTERS-IN-LAW\*\*\*\*\***

**According to last year's publication "Cancer Epidemiology, Bio-markers and Prevention," people who have ever used tanning machines were 74 per cent more likely to develop melanoma than others.**

**Co-author Martin Weinstock of Brown University School of Medicine states those who tanned the most -- for 10 years or more --**

**had more than twice the risk of melanoma compared with people who never used tanning beds.**

**Many of us in our younger years enjoyed sunning ourselves at the beach in the hope of achieving that golden glow.**

**People who did so and had that color to their skin were often described as looking and perceived as being healthier.**

**We are now finding that description to be anything but accurate.**

**In this era of get it done now, the current generation has found a way to circumvent even the day at the beach by lying in a tanning bed.**

**While these beds cannot replace a peaceful day by the sea, what they have been able to effectively replicate is the sun's harmful rays.**

**What you are about to hear is testimony as to why House Bill 369 should be considered and eventually become law.**

**There is one person I need to mention who could not be with us today....**

**.....but I am hoping is watching this hearing through my web site.**

**Monday afternoon, a woman named Donna Helm Regen posted on my legislative Facebook page a video, which I hope all of you will take time to view.**

**Donna lives in Allen, Texas and recently got word of my legislation.**

**She posted her support and wanted to know what she could do from afar.**

**Donna's daughter Jamie used to spend her lunch hour during her teenage years visiting a tanning salon.**

**On Friday, March 16, 2007, @ one o'clock in the afternoon, Jamie lost her battle with cancer, specifically melanoma, a condition brought on by the use of tanning beds.**

**Donna, if you are watching, we are sorry for your loss, and will do what we can to prevent this from happening to others here in Pennsylvania.**

**Members of the committee, I appreciate your taking time to hear from the following testifiers, and hope that I will be before you in the very near future to have this legislation taken up by the House Judiciary Committee.**

**In that vein, I do need to mention one thing.....**

**I want to assure you that if this bill is considered in committee, I will offer an amendment to change the penalty from criminal to civil.**

**Violators should be fined and at some point lose their license, but I don't intend for anyone to go to jail for such a violation.**

**Thank you again, and I will take any questions you may have.**