



MEASURE: HB 2896
EXHIBIT: 18
S. HEALTHCARE & HUMAN SERVICES
DATE: 3/19/13 PAGES: 2
SUBMITTED BY: Sen. Courtney

PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair

Senator Jeff Kruse, Vice Chair

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

Senator Chip Shields

Senator Tim Knopp

TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY

SUPPORTING HB 2896

MARCH 18, 2013

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Kruse, members of the committee: Thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Peter Courtney. I live in NE Salem. I am a state Senator for District 11 which includes Woodburn, Gervais, and east Salem.

Cancer is a horrible, horrible thing to go through – physically and mentally. According to a study published in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings in 2012, the risk of developing melanoma -- the deadliest type of skin cancer -- is now more than six times higher among young adults than it was 40 years ago.

Melanoma is the second most common cancer in women between the ages of 20 and 35 and the leading cause of cancer death in women ages 25 to 30.

Mayo Clinic researchers say the dramatic rise in melanoma rates among the young is most likely due to the increased use of tanning beds since 1970, as well as other unsafe exposures to ultraviolet light, such as severe sunburns in childhood.

The best way to reduce the risk of melanoma and other types of skin cancer is to limit exposure to ultraviolet radiation from tanning beds and the sun.

Mayo Clinic Researcher and Dermatologist Jerry Brewer said, "A recent study reported that people who use indoor tanning beds frequently are 74% more likely to develop melanoma." That's 74% more likely -- to develop the most deadly skin cancer.

All of the adults in this room know that teens are not invincible. For the same reasons teens are not legally allowed to smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol, teens should not be able to use a tanning bed without a doctor's prescription. I support HB 2896 because I care about kids.

Teens will most likely continue to think themselves invincible. We are here to protect them from the harm they cannot see -- so that they may live long enough to realize that we had their best interests at heart.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 2896. Thank you.