

Advocating for Oregon's Hospitals & the Patients They Serve

Committee: Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
Bill: HB 2896
From: Andi Easton, associate vice president of government affairs
Date: March 19, 2013

On behalf of Oregon's 58 acute care hospitals, the Oregon Association of Hospitals & Health Systems is writing today to express our support for HB 2896, which limits use of indoor tanning facilities by minors.

Oregon's dubious rankings as the state with the fourth-highest rate of death from melanoma overall and the state with the highest death rate for women diagnosed with melanoma should serve as an unequivocal call to action for Oregon's lawmakers.

A significant body of research has shown that limiting exposure to ultraviolet light, especially in young people, is the best way to prevent skin cancer, instances of which have increased readily over the past three decades.

A 2012 report to the U.S. congress found that 40 percent of women ages 16 to 18 use commercial tanning facilities -- a known human carcinogen. These women are signing up from more than bronze skin; they are signing up for a lifetime cancer risk that is at a minimum 20 percent higher than for peers who don't use indoor tanning facilities.

In the name of improving community health, we implore the committee to move affirmatively on HB 2896 and help Oregon join the 33 states that have taken action to limit harmful indoor tanning by minors.