



## **PALM BEACH TAN®**

March 19, 2013

My name is Mandy Henrikson; I am the Area Manager, Director of Operations for a Palm Beach Tan franchise that operates in Oregon and Vancouver, WA. I would like to thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

As a member of Smart Tan and a Smart Tan Instructor, we have always prided ourselves on the superior level of professionalism in which we conduct our business - from the cleanliness of our salon, to skin typing our clients, to restricting their exposure time to negate the risk of overexposure, to requiring those clients we have under 18 to have parental consent - consent that must be given in person at our salon.

We support regulations - regulations that increase professionalism, and most importantly, public knowledge, education and safety. The State of Oregon currently has very aggressive regulation of the tanning industry. We are required to maintain and operate our equipment and facilities in accordance to these regulations. We are required to train all of our employees through a certified training program that educates them on UV, skin, skin typing, risks and smart tanning procedures. We are required to skin type all customers, dictate their tanning time and frequency in accordance with their skin type and the equipment manufacture's recommended exposure schedule. We are required to inform and educate all of our customers on the importance of controlling their exposure and duration, the risks of overexposure and that using certain cosmetics/medications can create photosensitivity. We are required to confirm that customers are using protective eye wear. And as I stated before, we are required to get parental consent in person for any customers under the age of 18. We ask for ID for any new customers prior to inserting them and we ask for ID from the consenting parent, to confirm parentage. These regulations help us promote and educate on public safety and smart tanning procedures.

I am also a parent to 3 teenagers, 2 of them girls - I am very concerned that my rights to make decisions about activities in which my children partake is being taken away from me. My children's wellbeing - both now and in the future, is of the utmost importance to me - I am a well-informed individual and I weigh the risks and benefits in all decisions I make for my kids. I weighed that risk when I decided whether or not to immunize them, when I take them swimming and when I drop them off at school and trust that I have taught them well to cross the road by looking both ways first. The state trusts that I can

competently make decisions regarding my kids UV exposure for the 3-6 months of the year that the sun actually shines here in Oregon. I support our current regulation that requires parental consent for those under 18 to tan indoors. That gives me and other parents the right to weigh the risks associated with UV exposure, the opportunity to educate my children and the right to make a choice. Let's educate our youth - not ban them and terrify them about sun exposure.

As a parent, and an operator, I would support an under 16 ban. Young adults prior to 16 have a more controlled environment already. 16 year olds have more freedom, they can drive and this gives them access to an uncontrolled tanning environment (outdoors, friend's houses, different states) – requiring parental consent would afford me the ability to have a discussion and make a decision. In fact, the state of Oregon trusts me as a parent to teach my 16 year old to drive and advise them appropriately on making driving decisions that could impact many people. I feel that a tanning ban that mimics that of the driving age and policy makes sense.

It is far more important in my eyes to create a comprehensive educational campaign that would teach youth how to responsibly take part in an activity that they will do either indoors or out regardless of whether you ban them...sunshine outdoors is free, unlimited and uncontrolled. I hope this committee supports our efforts to work together to better manage our current regulations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.