



To:
The Honorable Mitch Greenlick
House Health Care Committee

Subject: HB 2896, Prohibits entity doing business in this state as tanning facility from allowing person who is under 18 years of age to use tanning device that is owned or operated by entity.

February 22, 2013

Chairman Greenlick and Members of the Health Care Committee,

I am a general pediatrician at Oregon Health & Sciences University and the Co-chair of the Oregon Pediatric Society Legislative Committee. I am writing to express Oregon Pediatric Society's **strong support of House Bill 2296.**

Melanoma is a devastating and often fatal form of skin cancer. Research has definitively demonstrated that risk for melanoma increases with early and frequent childhood exposure to ultraviolet radiation. UV tanning beds have been shown to cause skin cancer, and this risk is especially great for children, with a 75% increase for melanoma for children who use them.

Currently, 33 states regulate the use of UV tanning beds by minor, and as pediatricians we have seen the devastating effects that melanoma can have on a child. We strongly support this bill in the attempt to protect children from unnecessary exposure to harmful radiation and consequent skin cancer.

We believe this bill is a common-sense measure that will protect our most vulnerable citizens from this potentially lethal and unnecessary threat.

Benjamin Hoffman, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Oregon Health & Science University