

Hi Angie,

Thanks so much. Sorry I didn't respond to you earlier, things are very busy right now down in Salem! The bill is up tomorrow, so in the essence of time, I took a stab at writing a statement for you that you could edit as you wish and then potentially we could actually submit it tomorrow. If we can't get it finalized before tomorrow at 1 p.m., it will still definitely be helpful in the process. Let me know what you think of this statement:

Dear Members of the House Health Committee:

My name is Angie Herriges and I live in The Dalles, OR. I work at Columbia Laser Skin Center, which has locations in both Hood River and The Dalles. I am also the owner of Sun Free, LLC, which offers 'sun free' tanning. I decided to form Sun Free, LLC after a recent diagnosis of Basal Cell Carcinoma, a form of skin cancer. In the past, I really enjoyed the sun and spent many hours sunbathing and using tanning beds. I used tanning beds on and off since High School and well into my late twenties. After my diagnosis, I realized that I needed to educate myself more on the negative effects of UV radiation and tanning beds, and I wanted to find a safer alternative for looking tan. I actually tried a spray tan while on vacation and realized that the results were great—the spray tan allowed me to achieve that "tan look," without exposing my skin to cancer-causing UV radiation from a tanning bed. After that experience, I wanted to bring that 'sun free' option to the Columbia River Gorge, thus I started my business in The Dalles.

I support House Bill 2896 because tanning beds can cause skin cancer. Young people should be protected from tanning beds, just like they are from cigarettes until age 18. My business shows that you can offer spray tanning as a viable alternative to tanning beds, and provide individuals with tans without the risk of cancer. Thank you for your consideration of HB 2896 and I urge your support of this important legislation.