



OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee,

The Oregon Business Association (OBA) supports HB 2896.

This legislation represents an effective way to help prevent skin cancer in young people. Over the past three decades, more people have had skin cancer than all other cancers combined. Melanoma is the most deadly type of skin cancer. Melanoma is responsible for 75% of all skin cancer deaths, and 1 in 8 people diagnosed with melanoma will die from it. Even more disturbing, melanoma rates in young people are skyrocketing. A 2012 study shows the number of melanomas found among women under 40 years old increased by more than eightfold between the 1970s and 2000s. Cases of melanoma among men under 40 also increased by more than fourfold during the same time period.

Preventing cancer in the first place is a laudable public policy where the state can help Oregonians stay healthy and *save on the health care costs* associated with cancer treatment. In particular, we know that skin cancers remain a highly preventable form of cancer that affects a disproportionately high number of Oregonians. Women diagnosed with melanoma have the highest death rate in the country when compared to any other state, and overall Oregon has the 4th highest death rate for melanoma in the United States. The good news is we know that limiting exposure to ultraviolet light, especially in young people, is the best way to prevent skin cancer.

Given the clear link between UV tanning beds and skin cancer, preventing children from accessing tanning beds is an effective way to minimize their UV exposure. *Businesses in Oregon can offer a safe alternative to children, called spray tanning, which offers a similar bronzed look without causing cancer.* Spray tanning has been approved by the FDA since the 1970s, and is a safe alternative that usually costs slightly more than a UV tan. In fact, several Oregon businesses have chosen to only offer UV-free tanning options to all their customers--given the businesses' concerns about the risk of cancer from UV tanning beds. Thus there is a business model that exists to allow children to appear tan without exposing them UV radiation.

Given the *cost-savings related to cancer prevention*, the disturbing facts about Oregon's high melanoma rates, and the existence of a *safe alternative* that businesses can offer, OBA supports House Bill 2986.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

D.J. Vogt
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