



SUPPORT

S.2917 (Fuschillo)/ A.1074 (Weisenberg)
Ban on Use of Indoor Tanning Facilities by Minors

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) supports the above-referenced legislation which provides that a tanning facility shall not permit the use of an ultraviolet radiation device by persons under eighteen years of age. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO-IARC) has placed use of tanning beds in its highest risk category, carcinogenic to humans, and recommends that no individuals under the age of eighteen use an indoor tanning device. Both the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advise people to avoid tanning and the use of sun lamps and similar devices due to the increased health risks associated with unprotected exposure to this known carcinogen. CDC additionally reports that tanning devices can cause serious eye problems, such as conjunctivitis, corneal burns and infections, and retinal damage.

Despite these documented dangers, 2.3 million teens in the United States visit tanning salons each year, with the highest use primarily among Caucasian girls between the ages of 14-17, with visits increasing in frequency during this period of growth. Tanning device use exposes these adolescents to damaging UVA rays, which penetrate deeper into the skin than exposure to the UVB rays, which are more commonly associated with sunburns. Contrary to tanning industry claims, over-exposure to either type of UV radiation produces long-term skin damage. Research shows that the risk of developing melanoma **increases 75%** if a person is exposed to tanning beds before age 30. Incidence of melanoma is on the rise overall, but at a much faster pace among young white woman.

New York State is a national leader in protecting its most vulnerable citizens, our children, from many public health threats. We urge the Legislature to continue this tradition and adopt S.2917/A.1074 immediately.

5/5/11: Full Legislature

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NYSACHO supports and empowers local health departments in their work to promote health and wellness and prevent disease, disability and injury throughout New York State. By providing services such as information management, communication, technical assistance, linkage to training opportunities and advocacy, NYSACHO serves as the voice of local public health, connecting the 58 local health departments within our state's public health system.