



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MRA Congratulates California on New Tanning Bed Restrictions**

**Statement of Wendy K.D. Selig, President & CEO of the Melanoma Research**

**Alliance**

California's decision to ban those under 18 from using tanning beds is a welcome step in the right direction for a needless exercise that is a known and significant health threat. It is well documented that indoor tanning contributes to skin cancer, including melanoma, which can have fatal consequences. In fact, [studies compiled by the World Health Organization](#) established a 75% increased risk of melanoma in indoor tanning bed use. The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) is vigorously dedicated to research programs to make transforming advances in the prevention, diagnosis, staging, and treatment of melanoma.

Melanoma is the deadliest of skin cancers and the incidence is rising dramatically. Notably, it is the most common cancer in U.S. women age 25-29 years. In addition to state efforts, MRA [urges the FDA](#) to elevate its regulatory classification of tanning devices. Protecting youth from a known health danger could prevent many from receiving a diagnosis of skin cancer in the future. The State of California should be congratulated for being the first to take this important step.

###

***About the Melanoma Research Alliance***

*The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) is a public charity formed in 2007 under the auspices of the Milken Institute, with the generous support of Debra and Leon Black. It supports an international, cross-disciplinary group of biomedical researchers possessing clinical and scientific expertise to explore, identify and pursue innovative solutions to critical research questions, leading to better treatments and a cure for melanoma patients. Because of the support of its founders, all public donations to MRA go directly to research. MRA is the largest private funder of melanoma research. For more information, visit [www.curemelanoma.org](http://www.curemelanoma.org) or contact:*

Anreder & Company  
212-532-3232  
Steven S. Anreder  
steven.anreder@anreder.com  
Cristina Bacon  
cristina.bacon@anreder.com

Melanoma Research Alliance  
202-336-8919  
Karen Rogers  
krogers@curemelanoma.org