



**June 6, 2013:**

**MRA Applauds Nevada on New Tanning Bed Restrictions**

The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) congratulates the state of Nevada for enacting legislation to ban the use of indoor tanning beds for minors. This is a crucial step in protecting youth from a known health danger and will prevent many from receiving a diagnosis of skin cancer in the future. Indoor tanning devices, which have been labeled by international health authorities as class 1 carcinogens, pose a significant health threat, especially to young people. Indoor tanning is clearly associated with increased risk for all skin cancers including deadly melanoma. Tanning beds emit both UVA and UVB radiation, both of which damage skin cells, causing skin cancer and premature skin aging.

Nevada becomes the fourth state in the nation, and the second state this year, to implement an under 18 ban. Since 2012, California, Vermont, and Oregon have enacted similar tanning bed restrictions for minors. Under-18 bills are gaining momentum across the country, and bills in Texas and Illinois are currently awaiting the signatures of their governors. The MRA strongly supports efforts among state legislatures to reduce the use of these devices and raise awareness of the dangers of UV exposure; MRA urges states considering such restrictions to move forward on the proposed legislation.

Melanoma is the deadliest of skin cancers and the incidence is rising dramatically, notably among the young and in U.S. women age 25-29 years, frequent users of tanning beds. Studies by the World Health Organization established a 75% increased risk of melanoma in indoor tanning bed use. The recent bans on tanning are a welcome step in the battle to reverse the increasing incidence rate of skin cancer, especially melanoma.