



**May 22, 2013:**

### **MRA Applauds Oregon on New Tanning Bed Restrictions**

The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) applauds the state of Oregon for enacting legislation to ban the use of indoor tanning beds for minors. This is an important 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.

The MRA strongly supports efforts among state legislatures and at the federal level to reduce the use of these devices and raise awareness of the dangers of UV exposure. Oregon becomes the third state, following California and Vermont, to restrict indoor tanning for minors. Under-18 bills in Texas and Illinois are currently awaiting the signatures of their governors, and MRA urges these states to move forward on the proposed legislation. Earlier this month, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released draft regulations that would require tanning beds to display stronger warning labels, including a recommendation that people under the age of 18 abstain from using the devices. The proposed reclassification moves tanning beds and sunlamps from Class 1 (low risk) to Class 2 (moderate risk) devices. MRA is a strong proponent of banning indoor tanning beds for minors and views the FDA's proposed reclassification as an important first step in this process.

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.