



February 1, 2012

Statement from the MRA on the new report released by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce

Today, the Minority Staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, released the report "False and Misleading Health Information Provided to Teens by the Indoor Tanning Industry," outlining the health risks, especially for young women and teenagers, associated with indoor tanning beds.

With the growing use of indoor tanning, the incidence of melanoma is on the rise, especially among young people. It is estimated that melanoma risk is increased by 75% when use of tanning devices starts before 30 years of age.

As the leading private funder of melanoma research aimed at seeking a cure of this deadly skin cancer, the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) is concerned about the mounting use of indoor tanning beds, which are a known human carcinogen and an established risk factor for melanoma and other skin cancers. The report underscores the disregard for these real health concerns by the indoor tanning industry, and we vigorously endorse banning indoor tanning beds for minors (as the state of California did this year).

Protecting youth from a known health danger could prevent many from receiving a diagnosis of skin cancer in the future. It is an important step we need to take to protect the public's health and that action is needed.