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Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation Applauds Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker for Signing Indoor Tanning Ban for Minors

Bill is a Major Step Forward in Eliminating Known Skin Cancer Risk



NORWELL, Mass., Feb. 5, 2016 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation (CMPF) applauds Massachusetts Governor Baker for signing bill S. 1994: "An Act to Further Regulate Tanning Facilities" into law today. The law will go into effect 90 days after the bill signing, making Massachusetts the 12th state to prohibit minors from indoor tanning.

Melanoma is now the most common cancer in young adults and the fourth most common cancer in children. A recent JAMA study showed that 97% of women diagnosed with melanoma before age 30 reported indoor tanning prior to being diagnosed.

"This legislation is critically important because of the connection between tanning devices, melanoma and death in young women," said CMPF's Advocacy Coordinator Maura Flynn.

As the only national foundation focused on preventing skin cancer in children, CMPF has strongly advocated in favor of an indoor tanning ban for minors and played an integral role in support of the bill's passage. Both Flynn and CMPF's Founder/Executive Director Maryellen Maguire-Eisen testified in support of the measure, solicited letters from experts and professional organizations, partnered with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, connected with key legislators, and rallied public health nurses.

"We are so pleased that this ban will ensure that students can no longer indoor tan—especially during prom season, when even the most health savvy teen forgets it is not safe," said Ms. Maguire-Eisen. "We would like to recognize Senator James Timilty (D-Walpole) for introducing the bill and working so hard to protect children. With skin cancer rates skyrocketing and one person dying every 45 minutes from the disease, we must protect children from unnecessary risks."

About the Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation

Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation (CMPF), a non-profit foundation, established in 2003, teaches safe and proven methods of sun protection and skin cancer prevention. Our aim is to reduce the incidence and impact of melanoma on families and society. CMPF has developed the SunAWARE Children's Program to provide a better understanding of UV intensity and sun sensitivity, as well as proper sun protection and skin cancer recognition. Our goal is to prevent skin cancer, one child at a time. Visit www.melanomaprevention.org