



Sharon Miller, M.S.E.E
Center for Devices and Radiological Health
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 66, Rm. 4234
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

regarding **Docket ID: FDA-2015-N-1765**

Dear Ms. Miller:

The National Physicians Alliance, a non-partisan, multi-specialty organization, strongly supports the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's proposal to restrict minors from using indoor tanning devices and to require adults to sign a risk acknowledgement form in advance of use of a tanning bed.

Furthermore, because there is little evidence of health benefits from tanning beds and abundant evidence of health risks, we support banning tanning beds entirely.

Across medical specialties, physicians treat thousands of skin cancers. We have seen first-hand the incidence of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers rise at an alarming rate. Scientific evidence shows that indoor tanning can raise the risk of melanoma in those under 35 by 59 percent. It is estimated that indoor tanning contributes to more than 400,000 cases of skin cancer in the U.S. every year.¹ The financial and public health costs of indoor tanning are enormous. The cost of treating skin cancers in the U.S. is estimated at \$8.1 billion each year, approximately \$4.8 billion for nonmelanoma skin cancers and \$3.3 billion for melanoma.² This estimate does not include lost productivity due to treatment or early death, or the cost of topical treatments.

The tanning industry is a multi-billion dollar enterprise. We must protect the public from the cancer threat posed by this special interest group through their promotion of indoor tanning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Jones'.

Rebecca Jones, MD
Member, NPA FDA Taskforce

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Plymate, MD'.

Lisa Plymate, MD
Co-Chair, NPA FDA Taskforce

¹ <https://www.aad.org/advocacy/skin-cancer-and-indoor-tanning/stop-skin-cancer>

² <https://www.aad.org/media/stats/conditions/skin-cancer>