

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2013

Dear Colleague:

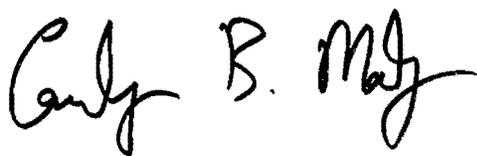
Please join us in sending the attached letter to Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Hamburg supporting the FDA's proposed reclassification of tanning beds as Class II Medical Devices subject to special controls including premarket notification and enhanced labeling requirements.

Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for Americans age 25-29 and the fastest-growing cancer in the United States. Incidence of melanoma among women under thirty has grown by 50 percent since 1980 and exposure to UV radiation from indoor tanning beds significantly increases the occurrence of this deadly cancer.

The proposed reclassification will include a strong recommendation against the use of tanning beds by minors as well as testing and labeling requirements for tanning bed and lamp manufacturers. This proposal is a tremendous step forward to stop the growth of skin cancer and promote responsible tanning practices.

Thank you for your consideration and please have your staff reach out to Chris Gorud (chris.gorud@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Maloney or Drew Kent (drew.kent@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Dent to add your name to the letter or with any questions.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

[INSERT DATE]

Margaret Hamburg, M.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hamburg,

We commend your agency for its proposed reclassification of Ultraviolet Lamps for Tanning as a Class II device subject to premarket notification and other special controls. As you know, reclassification will include a strong recommendation against the use of tanning beds by minors as well as testing and labeling requirements for tanning bed and lamp manufacturers. This proposal is a tremendous step to help protect Americans from harmful radiation and stem the troubling growth in the occurrence of melanoma.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that this year 76,690 Americans will be diagnosed with melanoma and 9,480 will die from the disease. Melanoma occurrences have grown over two percent per year since 1981. Greater exposure to tanning lamps is one cause of this troubling increase. Research indicates that melanoma risk increases by 75 percent for individuals exposed to UV radiation from indoor tanning devices, and risk rises with each subsequent use.

Like the FDA, we are particularly concerned about the use of indoor tanning lamps by teens. Indeed, two to three million teens under 18 use tanning beds each year and 58 percent of these adolescent users experience burns due to frequent exposure. Melanoma is especially prevalent among young people and is the most common form of cancer for Americans age 25-29. We are encouraged that the proposed reclassification will include a strong warning against the use of indoor tanning devices under the age of 18 and hope FDA will continue to consider ways to ensure the safety of our nation's youth.

Sincerely,