

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Scott Gottlieb, M.D.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20093

Dear Commissioner Gottlieb:

We write to request an update on the status of FDA's 2015 proposed rule, *General and Plastic Surgery Devices: Restricted Sale, Distribution, and Use of Sunlamp Products (RIN 0910-AH14)*. This rule, establishing a federal standard restricting the use of tanning beds to individuals age 18 and older, would be a tremendous step toward protecting young Americans from the harms of Ultraviolet (UV) radiation and curbing the rise of skin cancer.

As Co-chairs of the Congressional Skin Cancer Caucus, we are deeply concerned about the dangers posed by tanning beds and the need to protect American children from skin cancer. The World Health Organization's International Agency of Research on Cancer has declared UV radiation from the sun and artificial sources, such as tanning beds and sun lamps, to be a known carcinogen. Using indoor tanning beds before age 35 can increase one's risk of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, by 59 percent. Researchers estimate that each year indoor tanning may cause upwards of 400,000 cases of skin cancer in the U.S. and lead to a total economic cost of \$343.1 million.

Even as overall cancer rates decline, rates of skin cancer in this country continue to rise, particularly among young women. Melanoma is the second most common cancer in females age 15-29. Young women make up 70 percent of the tanning population, and nearly one third of tanners start tanning before the age of 18. It is vital that the FDA take action to restrict the age limit of tanning beds to 18 years and older.

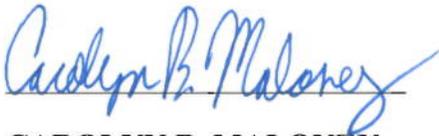
As you know, on March 21, 2016 the comment period closed for FDA's proposed tanning bed rule. In March 2016, we wrote to your predecessor with a bipartisan group of Representatives, urging the FDA to finalize the rule as soon as possible. The rule has not yet been finalized.

Given the paramount importance of an age restriction on tanning beds to the safety of our children, we would like to know the status of the proposed rule, specifically addressing the following questions:

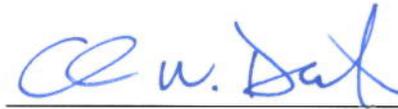
- Does the FDA plan to finalize the proposed rule, and if so when?
- If not, are you planning to propose a new rule to restrict the use of tanning beds to individuals 18 years and older?

Thank you for your attention to this important health concern. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



**CAROLYN B. MALONEY**  
**Co-Chair**  
**Congressional Skin Cancer Caucus**



**CHARLES W. DENT**  
**Co-Chair**  
**Congressional Skin Cancer Caucus**