

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Board of Health  
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To Whom It May Concern:

As a NYC resident, volunteer for the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) and [INSERT PERSONAL ASPECT IF RELEVANT (“as someone with melanoma,” “as the father/mother/brother/sister/friend of someone with melanoma,” “a former tanner,”)] I am writing to comment on the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s proposal to assume regulatory authority over indoor tanning facilities operating in NYC from the New York State Department of Health.

I urge you to act without delay on this proposed order to assume the regulation, the licensure, operation and inspection of these facilities. This will raise awareness and reduce the risk of tanning-related health effects among tanning facility patrons.

I’m proud to volunteer for the MRF, the largest independent organization devoted to melanoma. Committed to the support of medical research in finding effective treatments and eventually a cure for melanoma, the MRF also educates patients and physicians about the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of melanoma. Yet, the positive impact that the MRF and volunteers like me can have in reducing the burden of this disease is significantly hampered by the incomplete or incorrect information that potential users of tanning beds are offered.

The imperative to act quickly could not be clearer. Melanoma is the deadliest and most common form of cancer for young adults 25-29 years old, and the second most common cancer for adolescents and young adults, ages 15-29. We know that the risk of developing melanoma increases by 75 percent for individuals who have been exposed to radiation from indoor tanning beds, and the risk increases with each use. Raising awareness of this risk is critical to reducing the number of new melanoma cases we see each year.

On behalf of the MRF, I thank the DOHMH for its leadership in protecting the public from dangerous tanning devices.

Please contact me, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Volunteer name  
Phone #  
Email address]