

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2006

The Honorable Nathan Deal  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Deal:

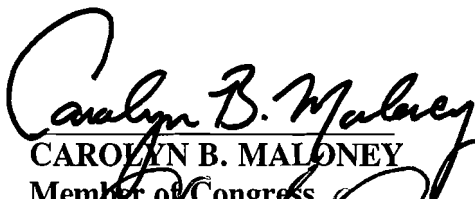
We are writing to reiterate the request made by Congressman Brown that the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce hold a hearing on H.R. 4767, the Tanning Accountability and Notification Act. H.R. 4767 would require the Food and Drug Administration to conduct consumer testing to determine whether the current labeling of indoor tanning beds provides sufficient information to consumers about the risks associated with indoor tanning beds.

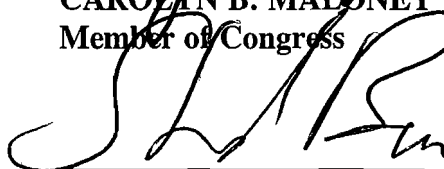
While many people understand that tanning outside in the sun is harmful, many people also believe that artificial tanning is a safer alternative to sunbathing. According to the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), almost 30 million Americans visit indoor tanning salons each year— 70% of visitors are women between the ages of 16 and 49. More than 25% of teen girls have used tanning salons three or more times in their lives. One of the reported side effects of indoor tanning is an elevated risk of skin cancer. According to the AAD, regular tanning bed use was associated with a 55% increase in the risk of developing melanoma, especially in women between the ages of 20 and 29. As a result, dermatologists have concluded that indoor tanning is not safe. FDA and numerous leading United States and international health care organizations have expressed concerns that the consuming public is not aware that indoor tanning devices emit ultraviolet radiation that is similar to and sometimes more powerful than UV radiation emitted by the sun. It is clear that Americans are not aware that indoor tanning is dangerous.

We believe that a hearing on H.R. 4767 would encourage the FDA to reexamine its current warning label requirements and would help educate the public about the risks associated with indoor tanning. With the approaching warm weather and more young women beginning to think about proms and summer vacation, we believe it's an ideal time to hold a hearing.

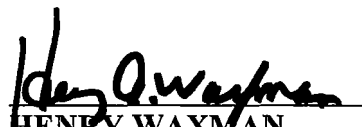
We look forward to working with you. If you need further information, please have your staff contact Anthea Watson with Congresswoman Maloney at extension 5-7944.

Sincerely,

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

  
SHERROD BROWN  
Member of Congress

  
GINNY BROWN-WAITE  
Member of Congress

  
HENRY WAXMAN  
Member of Congress