RESOLUTION

Subject: Protection of Minors from Risks of Indoor Tanning

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, the dangers of excess ultraviolet radiation are undeniable and include the development of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, cataracts and premature aging, such that tanning bed radiation is now considered a Category 1 carcinogen, similar to tobacco and mustard gas; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the FDA re-categorized indoor tanning beds as class II devices, indicating that their use carries risk, and sunlamp products now contain black box warnings stating that they should not be used by individuals under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Dermatology and American Medical Association support legislative efforts to prohibit use of tanning beds by minors under age 18; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the KMA resolved to support the enactment of state legislation to protect minors from the hazards of indoor tanning by prohibiting the sale of tanning salon ultraviolet rays to those under 18 years of age *(Res 2010-16, 2010 HOD, p 422),* but no changes were made to Kentucky law as a result; and

WHEREAS, since 2006 Kentucky law has allowed minors age 14 – 17 to use tanning beds with signed parental consent documenting awareness of risks of tanning bed use, and minors under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian but are otherwise not restricted in tanning bed use; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that laws aiming to decrease indoor tanning by requiring parental consent are ineffective, exemplified by Kentucky tanning bed facilities found to have 30% compliance with current laws[1]; and

WHEREAS, in light of these regulatory changes and increased knowledge of harms of UV exposure, especially at an early age, most states in the United States have enacted legislation banning their use in minors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical advocate that the Kentucky General Assembly pass legislation to prohibit tanning bed use in individuals under the age of 18.

References

[1] *JAMA Dermatol.* 2018;154(1): 67-72.