

On Feb 19, 2013, at 8:39 AM, Tammy Parduba <TParduba@ParkCounty.us> wrote:

- > Dr. Kutsch,
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- > Here is what I would like to submit to be read at the hearing. Please
- > let me know if it is too long or anything you would like me to
- > change/revise. I will be sure to send you a final copy. Tammy
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- > I am unable to make it to Helena for the legislative session, so I appreciate
- > you reading my statement regarding bill "HB 456".
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- > My name is Tammy Parduba. I was diagnosed with melanoma on my right cheek in
- > the summer of 2011. I have spent many years going to tanning booths beginning at
- > the age of seventeen and continuing until the age of thirty-six when I was
- > diagnosed with my third basal cell cancer and the first on my face. This is when
- > I finally woke up to the dangers of tanning beds and facial tanning lamps.
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- > I remember very clearly the enticements to use tanning beds - they are safe,
- > safer than the sun, it will clear up your acne, you don't want to get sunburned,
- > so get a head start with a base tan at a tanning booth. Yes, I always looked
- > great with my all year tan - or so I thought.
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- > Twelve years after I have stopped using tanning beds, I now only have regret
- > from all my days of tanning. I have recently had my fourth basal cell removed
- > from my face and I have already had four basal cell removals from my torso. I can
- > only hope and pray that I will not be diagnosed with any more melanomas.
- >
- > What I find very disappointing is how many mothers of teen girls allow their
- > daughters to tan before prom, spring break or summer vacations. When I tell them
- > my story and regrets, they remind me that tanning beds are "safe", so much safer
- > than the sun. I always ask them to take a good look at my face and the scars I
- > have even with plastic surgery. Most say that won't happen to my daughter and it
- > must run in your family. I am the only person in both my immediate and extended
- > family to ever have either basal cell or melanoma cancer. I am also the only one
- > that has used tanning beds. Coincidence? I think not.
- >
- > I do hope that requiring a parental signature to tan will make it an
- > inconvenience for many parents, so they will not bother to go to the tanning
- > shops to sign the necessary releases. I think that limitation on the number of
- > times a teen can tan each year is also a great restriction. I couldn't even begin
- > to count how many times I used a tanning bed each year. All I know is that it was
- > too many times.
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- > I ask that you vote to pass HB 456 and save the lives of our teens and
- > hopefully help them to see how dangerous this practice really is.
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- > Thank you for your time and consideration.
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