

DNA Members Support Montana House Bill 456

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Montana House Bill 456 was filed this legislative session. The proposed bill sought to restrict indoor tanning for minors. This bill would have required in-person parental consent for minors under the age of 18 to use indoor tanning facilities; certainly not ideal, but a step in the right direction for a state that resists any restrictions on personal freedom. As part of the process a legislative hearing was held on February 22, 2013. Supporters of the bill in attendance at this hearing were patients, community members and a multitude of health professionals, including two of our DNA members, Casey Schwantes and Karrie Fairbrother. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass and was tabled as votes were cast along party lines.

While the outcome was disappointing, this experience emphasizes the importance of becoming involved and contacting your legislators to urge their support of issues important to you. Often, party lines will be the determining factor for many legislators unless they have a strong push otherwise.

Be that strong push. Don't be afraid to send letters and information that strengthen your argument. Encourage and inspire colleagues, friends, family and your community.

If it matters to you, make it matter to your legislators!