

# Turn up the heat to help turn off the (tanning) lamp!

Posted on Tuesday July, 23rd 2013 at 10:07 am

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued a proposed order that, if finalized, would significantly strengthen tanning bed regulations.

The order would require warning labels on tanning beds and in related promotional materials informing consumers about the risks of tanning bed use, warning frequent users to be screened for skin cancer, and alerting users that tanning beds are not recommended for people under age 18.

These regulations would be a meaningful step forward in the fight against skin cancer, but this progress is in jeopardy unless you show your support for the proposed order.

Despite studies that offer dramatic evidence that indoor tanning bed use increases the risk of skin cancer, tanning proponents are rallying to urge the FDA not to move ahead with the order. They want the FDA to continue classifying tanning beds as low-risk Class I devices, which is the same designation given to elastic bandages and tongue depressors.

We need your help in letting the FDA know that consumers deserve to know the risks of tanning beds before getting in one.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Charles Dent (R-PA) are asking their colleagues in the US House to sign a letter to the FDA, commending the proposed order, and supporting further action that would ban minors from using indoor tanning beds. [Read their letter here.](#) Please ask your representative to sign this letter. **The deadline for your representatives to receive comments on the issue is this Thursday, July 25!**

[Here is a sample letter template that you can personalize and use.](#) Please remember, email is the best way to contact your legislators. Here is a link where you can find out who your representative is <http://house.gov/>. Enter your zip code and your representative's information will pop up. You will see an envelope icon that you can simply click on to send an email. You can simply copy the text of your letter, paste it into the email, add your name, and done!!

Thank you for helping us advocate for this very important rule!