

February 28, 2024

Robert M. Califf, MD
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

RE: Appreciation for Progress on Sunlamp Regulation and Urging Finalization of Proposed Rules

Dear Commissioner Califf:

On behalf of the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention (NCSCP), we extend our sincere appreciation to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), working with the Department of Health and Human Services, for advancing the proposed rules concerning sunlamp regulation. We commend the inclusion of the rules titled "*General and Plastic Surgery Devices: Restricted Sale, Distribution, and Use of Sunlamp Products*" (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-1765); and "*Sunlamp Products: Proposed Amendment to Performance Standard*" (Docket No. FDA-1998-N-0880) published by the FDA in the Federal Register on December 22, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 79493 and 80 Fed. Reg. 79505 et seq.) in the **March 2024 Unified Agenda**. Sunlamp regulation remains a high priority for the NCSCP.

Comprised of over 45 organizations, agencies, and associations dedicated to raising awareness about skin cancer and the dangers of ultraviolet light exposure, NCSCP members include leading researchers, clinicians, and advocates for melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancer prevention. Our concern persists regarding the ongoing risk to public health posed by inadequate sunlamp regulation. Therefore, we urge the FDA to finalize rules that restrict minors' access to sunlamps, mandate risk acknowledgement certification for adults, and enhance sunlamp performance standards.

The NCSCP opposes indoor tanning for all individuals, particularly minors. Moreover, public education regarding health hazards of indoor tanning is paramount in addressing the severe skin cancer epidemic in the United States. Prohibiting individuals under 18 years of age from using tanning beds will undoubtedly lead to a decrease in skin cancer incidence, especially among young women. Such measures align perfectly with the objectives of the President's Cancer Moonshot initiative, which aims to reduce cancer mortality rates by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years through better treatment outcomes and prevention strategies,¹ and The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer issued in 2014.²

We commend the FDA for proposing a nationwide ban on minors' use of tanning beds and for requiring adult tanning bed users to acknowledge the significant health risks associated with indoor tanning, including the heightened risk of developing potentially fatal melanoma and other skin cancers.

¹ The White House, "Fact Sheet: President Biden Reignites Cancer Moonshot to End Cancer as We Know it," February 02, 2022, Statements and Releases

²U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General; 2014.

The FDA is uniquely positioned to bring to fruition the efforts initiated several years ago with the prohibition of indoor tanning for minors. Finalizing the proposed sunlamp rules will play a pivotal role in curbing the incidence of melanoma and other skin cancers in the United States, representing a crucial step toward achieving President Biden's Cancer Moonshot goals. Despite these rules being on the FDA's Unified Agenda for several years, their finalization has been pending. We urge the FDA to adhere to the outlined timeline and complete the rulemaking process in **March 2024**.

We express our gratitude for the FDA's leadership in addressing this pressing public health issue and eagerly anticipate continued collaboration to safeguard public health. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 301.801.4422 or antonishak@skincancerprevention.org.

The endorsing NCSCP organizations listed below thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



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NCSCP Executive Director



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NCSCP Co-Chair
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The Skin Cancer Foundation

Endorsing Organizations:

AIM at Melanoma
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Mohs Surgery
American Melanoma Foundation
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery
American Society for Mohs Surgery
Colette Coyne Melanoma Awareness Campaign
Connect Melanoma
Dermatology Interest Group Association
Dermatology Nurses' Association
FCancer
IMPACT Melanoma
Jason Farley All In For A Cure Foundation
Kelly's Dream
Melanoma Research Alliance
Melanoma Research Foundation
Outrun the Sun
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants
Society for Pediatric Dermatology
Sun Safety for Kids
The Skin Cancer Foundation