**Mississippi**

**Youth Skin Cancer Prevention Coalition**

*The Mississippi Youth Skin Cancer Prevention Coalition is made up of Mississippi parents, cancer survivors, providers and organizations who believe Mississippi’s youth deserve strong protections from a known hazard that causes cancer – indoor tanning devices. The greatest avoidable known risk factor for skin cancer is the use of indoor tanning devices. Together we can protect a future generation from melanoma and other skin cancers.*

***Skin Cancer Rates Are on The Rise***

Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and rates have been rising for the past 30 years. This year in Mississippi, an estimated 620 people will be diagnosed, and 60 people will die from melanoma. 1

***Indoor Tanning Devices Are Carcinogenic to Humans***

The greatest avoidable known risk factor for skin cancer is the use of indoor tanning devices. Tanning before the age of 35 increases the risk of melanoma by 59 percent, squamous cell carcinoma by 67 percent, and basal cell carcinoma by 29 percent.2 Rates increase even more when tanning devices are used before age 25.3

The FDA recommends the devices should not be used on individuals under 18 years of age.4 The U.S. Surgeon General released a call to action to prevent skin cancer, naming tanning beds as a risk factor for skin cancer and encouraged prohibiting the use of indoor tanning devices for individuals under 18.5

***Mississippi’s Youth Deserve Better Protection***

Parental consent laws like Mississippi’s are not associated with reduced indoor tanning among youth.6 To protect youth from the harmful effects of artificial UV radiation the law should prohibit the use of indoor tanning devices for children under 18. Mississippi should join states like Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and North Carolina that prohibit youth under 18 from using indoor tanning devices.

**Protecting teens from indoor tanning will save lives.**

*Mississippi Rural Health Association
Mississippi Oncology Society
Mississippi State Department of Health
Mississippi State Dermatology Society
Mississippi State Medical Association
North MS Medical Center
The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi
St. Dominic Health Services
Southwest MS Regional Medical Center
The University of Mississippi Medical Center
The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center*

*AIM at Melanoma
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Pediatrics, MS Chapter
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Baptist Health Systems
McComb Skin Clinic
Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians
Mississippi Hospital Association
Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association
Mississippi Primary Health Care Association
Mississippi Public Health Association
Mississippi Public Health Institute*