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Indoor Tanning Association's Statement on Restricting Teen Access to Sun Tanning

The Indoor Tanning Association believes that the decision regarding whether or not a teen is allowed to suntan is a decision for parents, not government. The industry strongly supports parental consent which is already the law in New Jersey and other states. However, it is a very slippery slope when government starts taking away the right to make very basic parenting decisions such as this. Is the next step to ban teens from sun bathing at public beaches and pools?

Right now in the state of New Jersey, a teenage girl can secure an abortion without her parent's consent but if this legislation passes, cannot get a suntan with her parent's consent. 16 or 17 year olds can drive cars, get married, own guns, hunt, and secure birth control and abortion services yet if these laws pass, they would not be allowed to suntan, even if their parents approved.

Proponents of these laws always exaggerate the risks of exposure to ultraviolet light in order to get the attention of the public, the media and the government. It is a fact that ultraviolet light from a sunbed is the same as that from the sun and regular moderate non-burning exposure is essential for good health.

You also have to consider the health risks associated with banning teenagers from using tanning salons. They will just go outside with no adult supervision and no trained staff where they are much more likely to get sunburned.