



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 14, 2017

Re: S.5585-A/A.7218-A

An act to amend the public health law, in relation to tanning facilities.

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The New York Health Plan Association (HPA) supports S.5585-A/ A.7218-A, which seeks to protect New York teens against the dangers of indoor tanning devices that can increase the incidence and risks of developing cancer.

Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States and rates have been rising for the past 30 years, according to the American Cancer Society. The greatest avoidable known risk factor for skin cancer is avoiding the use of indoor tanning devices. Yet, each year, an estimated 11.3 million Americans engage in indoor tanning.

This legislation would add New York to the 12 other states that prohibit the use of indoor tanning devices for individuals under the age of 18. Studies show that if properly enforced, indoor tanning age restriction laws are effective in deterring minors from using tanning devices and could help to reduce skin cancer incidence and mortality rates across the country.

Managed care plans are founded on principles that emphasize primary and preventive care. As part of their comprehensive approach to health care, HPA member plans have long sought to educate their members and the general public on avoiding behaviors that increase the risk of developing various types of cancers. In concert with this philosophy, HPA has historically supported public policies that support these goals.

For these reasons, HPA supports S.5585-A/ A.7218-A.

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The New York Health Plan Association represents 29 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 7 million New Yorkers.