



ROB LAMME AND ASSOCIATES

October 29, 2014

Dr. Marc Darst M.D.  
Darst Dermatology  
11301 Golf Links Dr N, Ste 203  
Charlotte, NC 28277

Dear Dr. Darst,

I am writing to thank you for your part in the North Carolina Dermatology Association's effort to protect children from the dangers of indoor tanning beds.

I also want to take a moment to review our work in 2014 and look forward to 2015.

As I am sure you are aware, the legislation to prohibit minors from using indoor tanning beds did not ultimately pass this session. But despite this setback – and because of your efforts and those of dermatologists across the state – we have a great deal to be pleased and proud about this year, including:

- We garnered statewide media attention on the tanning bed issue with press conferences at NCDA practice offices and featuring dermatologists in Charlotte, Asheville, Raleigh and Greensboro. These efforts educated tens of thousands of people regarding our bill and the dangers of indoor tanning.
- Our support in the legislature for the tanning bed bill – and for dermatologists more generally – is growing. When we began this effort, the bill could not even be introduced in the House. Now we have passed the bill with strong support there AND the vast majority of Senate Republicans AND Democrats continue to support the bill.

- We have strong partners in the American Cancer Society, the N.C. Pediatric Society, the N.C. Medical Society and others. These coalition partners will benefit our efforts on the tanning bed bill as well as other legislative issues going forward.
- We have broadly expanded the number of NCDA members involved in our policy work both in terms of DermPAC support and in the numerous dermatologist-legislator meetings we arranged this spring, as well as our third annual skin cancer screening day at the legislature.
- Our DermPAC contributions continue to grow and will reach record levels this year.

Again, this progress didn't just happen – it's the result of a great deal of hard work by dermatologists like you.

All of us who worked on the tanning bed bill were disappointed that we were not able to win its passage this year. The frustration was made worse by the fact that we had commitments from a majority of senators – from both sides of the aisle – to support the legislation. In the end, however, we were not able to convince some members of the Senate leadership to allow the bill to be debated. If it's any comfort, we are not alone in our frustrations – a number of other physician-supported proposals were not debated in 2014, despite overwhelming support among rank-and-file Republicans and Democrats.

Regarding the future of the tanning bed bill, we will continue our efforts to win approval of the legislation next year, when the legislature begins its 2015 session in January. While we will likely face some of the same opposition, I am cautiously optimistic about the bill's prospects for next year. In fact, preparations for 2015 have already begun, with grassroots meetings between legislators and dermatologists all over the state.

In addition to the tanning bed legislation, the Dermatology Association will also be part of the effort to oppose giving for-profit, out-of-state managed care companies control of the state's Medicaid program. While Medicaid is a small


part of many dermatologists' patient population, bringing for-profit managed care into North Carolina for 1.5 million North Carolina Medicaid patients is likely to have a negative impact on all physicians, including the many dermatologists who work in independently-owned practices in our state.

If you would like to learn more about these and other issues likely to be considered during the 2015 session, I would be pleased to come to your practice and meet with you and your colleagues for a policy briefing.

And, of course, I hope you will continue to support the Dermatology Association's policy work – efforts like yours are crucial to our success.

Thank you again and I look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Rob Lamme, Government Relations Consultant

NC Dermatology Association

Thanks for all your  
help — RL