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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 922 An Act Allowing Students to Apply
Sunscreen Prior To Engaging In Outdoor Activities
Public Health Committee
March 4, 2019**

Representative Steinberg, Senator Abrams, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment today on Senate bill 922. I am Dr. Stephan Ariyan, former Chair of Plastic Surgery at the Yale University School of Medicine, and founding director of the melanoma program at the Smilow Cancer Center. I have dedicated my career in plastic surgery to the research and treatment of malignant melanoma, a deadly and largely preventable skin cancer. I speak in favor of SB 922 on behalf of the Connecticut State Medical Society.

Skin cancer is the most prevalent cancer in the United States. Among the skin cancers, melanoma is the most aggressive type, leading to more than 90,000 new cases each year. This incidence has been doubling every 15 years such that it is now the 5th most common cancer in the US (see attachment A). The risk of melanoma is now 15 times the risk it was in 1960, and 75 times the risk in 1935. In 2019, it is estimated that 4-5 out of every 100 individuals in the US will develop melanoma in their lifetime.

Epidemiological studies have confirmed that melanoma is a result of damage to the skin from sun exposure. It is a preventable cancer, and the risks can be decreased when proper action is taken to protect individuals from the damage from the sun. In 2014, the Surgeon General issued a report "CALL TO ACTION TO PREVENT SKIN CANCER" (see attachment B) to bring attention to communities to make changes to combat this disease. The report calls upon federal, state, and local governments to take action to implement policies to provide increased sun protection for both children and adults. It also specifically recommends provisions to allow the application of sunscreens for children during school activities (page 28,29).

While SB 922 addresses an important part of skin cancer prevention, I would urge that your committee examine the issue of sun protection for our citizens in a broader context appropriate for this important public health issue. The Surgeon General's report calls for actions to provide more shade protection in the planning of our public spaces, and our communities (page 47,48,54,55, 57). Planning of our schools and public places does not routinely consider provision of shade, and existing zoning regulations in many of our towns do not make any differentiation between structures intended for shade and accessory buildings. This has created barriers to the provision of structures to help prevent skin cancer.

To conclude, **I would urge support of SB 922**, and respectfully request that this committee consider the strategies outlined in the Surgeon General's report in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens.

Attachment A

MALIGNANT MELANOMA

	INCIDENCE	NEW CASES	DEATHS
1935	1/1,500	-	-
1960	1/600	-	-
1980	1/250	13,600	4,300
1985	1/150	22,000	5,500
1990	1/125	27,600	6,300
1995	1/100	34,100	7,200
2000	1/75	47,700	7,500
2005	1/62	59,600	7,800
2010	1/45	68,130	8,700
2016	1/40 (M= 1/33, F= 1/52)	76,380	10,130
2018	1/20 (M= 1/17, F= 1/27)	91,270*	9,320

* Excludes melanoma *in-situ* :
(87,290 new cases of *in-situ* in 2018)

From: RATNER: Skin Cancer Foundation
HILL L, FERRINI RL: CA 48: 232, 1998
CANCER STATISTICS 2003 CA 53:7, 2003
CANCER STATISTICS 2005 CA 55:10, 2005
CANCER STATISTICS 2008 CA 58: 87, 2008
CANCER STATISTICS 2016 CA 66: 7, 2016
CANCER STATISTICS 2018 CA 68: 7, 2018

