MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
S.2917/A.1074

An ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the use of ultraviolet radiation devices by persons under eighteen years of age.

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) joins with the New York Chapter of the ACS and many other medical and public health organizations in support of S.2917/A.1074, which would restrict the use of tanning beds to those who are eighteen years of age or older.

Countless scientific studies have shown clear and compelling evidence that tanning bed use increases the risk of developing all forms of skin cancer, including melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. The damage caused by ultraviolet (UV) radiation from tanning beds is cumulative and often irreversible, and the earlier people start to tan, the higher their risk of developing skin cancer in their lifetimes. There is a demonstrated 75 percent increase in the risk of developing melanoma with even minimal use of a tanning bed. The World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer classified tanning beds as group 1 – carcinogenic to humans, the highest cancer risk category.

The best way to treat cancer is to reduce the risk of developing it in the first place. Passing S.2917/A.1074 will at least help to keep minors from being exposed to tanning beds and the carcinogenic effect of tanning in these devices. S.2917/A.1074 is legislation that helps to achieve this goal, and the ACS urges support for it.