



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

**News: For Immediate Release**

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## **MAY IS MELANOMA/SKIN CANCER DETECTION & PREVENTION MONTH**

BALTIMORE, May 17, 2016 — As warm weather approaches and millions of Americans prepare to enjoy the outdoors, the risk of ultraviolet (UV) damage to the skin increases. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. UV radiation from the sun is the main cause of skin cancer. UV radiation can also come from tanning booths or sunlamps. The most dangerous kind of skin cancer is called melanoma.

MedChi is proud to participate in Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month. Recently, the Food and Drug Administration has called indoor tanning “a known contributor to skin cancer,” while the indoor tanning industry has questioned the certainty of the link.

At a hearing in Montgomery County, in March, before the county council, several area doctors testified that they’ve seen a number of young clients, mostly women, who developed basal cell carcinomas after using indoor tanning devices, usually when using tanning beds as teens. All nine Montgomery County Councilmembers signaled their support of the bill after the hearing.

It would be only appropriate for such a bill to be adopted during Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month. If this bill passed, it would make Montgomery County the second in the state to ban minors from using tanning beds at salons. Howard County has already adopted a similar measure.

Gene Ransom, CEO of MedChi, states, “Everyone can help spread the word about strategies for preventing skin cancer. Encourage family members to adopt good habits together, like wearing sunscreen, avoiding tanning beds and limiting their time in the sun.”

### About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org).