

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



American Academy of Dermatology Association
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Dear Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone:

The American Academy of Dermatology Association (Academy), which represents more than 13,000 dermatologists nationwide, commends you for holding a hearing on (H.R. 4250/ S.2141), the Sunscreen Innovation Act, which seeks to ensure that sunscreen ingredients are reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) within a predictable timeframe. We applaud you for raising awareness of this issue and look forward to working with you and the FDA to ensure that sunscreen products are thoroughly reviewed in a predictable timeframe.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States and one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. Research has shown that sunscreen helps reduce the risk of skin cancer and is essential to protecting the public from UV radiation. Skin cancer prevention is a top public health priority and we are committed to working with you and others in Congress to reduce the risk of skin cancer and promote safe sun behavior.

While we recognize and applaud the FDA's progress in finalizing the sunscreen labeling and testing requirements, there has long been a need for more timely review of sunscreen products, a fact of which our dermatologist members are acutely aware. A more timely review process has the potential to reduce Americans' risk for skin cancer by ensuring that they have access to the safest, most effective sunscreens available. We urge the Congress and the FDA to work together to establish a process that promotes the timely review of sunscreen ingredients, while ensuring consumer safety and product efficacy.

We appreciate your continued leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you in the fight against skin cancer. The Academy would like to serve as a resource to you and your subcommittee as you continue to address these important issues. If you have any questions or if we can provide any additional information, please contact Niva Haynes, the Academy's Manager, Congressional Policy, at nhaynes@aad.org or (202) 712-2608.

Sincerely,

Brett M. Coldiron, MD, FAAD
President, American Academy of Dermatology Association

1445 New York Ave., NW,
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-2134

Main: 202.842.3555
Fax: 202.842.4355
Website: www.aad.org

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