

Melanoma Research Alliance

September 12, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
731 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Letter of Support for S. 2141, the Sunscreen Innovation Act

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander:

On behalf of the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA), I am writing to express MRA's support for S. 2141, the Sunscreen Innovation Act, as prepared for consideration by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. As an active member of the Public Access of SunScreens (PASS) Coalition, MRA supports legislation to reform the current sunscreen approval process and we encourage Congress to enact this critical legislation as soon as possible.

As you know, despite dramatic increases in rates of melanoma and skin cancer, the last time the FDA approved a new sunscreen ingredient was in the 1990s. The Sunscreen Innovation Act will provide Americans access to the latest sunscreen technology, which addresses America's growing skin cancer epidemic and fosters innovations in sunscreen. Its provisions create a transparent and predictable review process and guarantees that safe and effective products reach consumers within a defined timeframe.

MRA is a public charity that accelerates the pace of scientific discovery and its translation in order to eliminate suffering and death due to melanoma by funding innovative research programs to improve melanoma prevention, diagnosis, staging, and treatment. In addition, MRA works with allies in government, non-profit, and industry to promote awareness about melanoma among the public and urge the public to take steps necessary to reduce their risk.

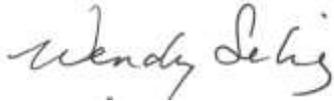
In the United States, one person dies every hour from melanoma and the numbers of skin cancer cases have risen dramatically. Sadly, many skin cancers could be prevented simply by reducing exposure to UV radiation, the leading environmental factor in the development of skin cancer.

There is unprecedented opportunity to make a difference in the future course of melanoma and other skin cancers. MRA is especially grateful for your leadership in the fight against melanoma and the extraordinary hard work by your staffs. Additionally, we appreciate your consideration of feedback from stakeholder organizations.

MRA calls on all members of the Senate HELP Committee to support S. 2141, the Sunscreen Innovation Act and hopes the full Senate will follow suit soon thereafter. We are eager to see this bill move expeditiously through the legislative process and look forward to working with you to enact its important provisions into law this year.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Selig".

Wendy K.D. Selig
MRA President and Chief Executive Officer

CC: Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA)