



RAFT Calls for support for the reading of the Private Members Bill at the House of Lords
30.03.10

RAFT thanks the House of Commons and the individual MPs who have supported the Private Members Bill regarding the use of sunbeds by under-18s. It now calls for support in the House of Lords who will be debating the issue on Tuesday 30th March.

The issue of skin cancer is becoming more widely known in the public eye, and the Private Members Bill has gained support from a wide range of people, from Nicola Roberts of Girls Aloud, Actress Gemma Merna, MP Julie Morgan and Health Secretary Andy Burnham. RAFT hope that the more the issue is addressed, the more people will openly support the Bill and put their name to petitions like the "Save Your Skin" campaign.

RAFT patron, and one of the authors of the COMARE report on the use of artificial ultraviolet (UV) radiation devices, Professor Ray Waters, stated that he was "very pleased to see the support from the House of Lords for this Bill. Skin cancer is the most frequent cancer in the UK, and the extremely serious malignant melanoma form of it is the most frequent amongst young adults."

Prof. Waters continued to state ' "The recent COMARE report to government pointed out that skin exposure to UV during sunbed usage contributes to these events, and that there is a pressing need within the UK to regulate on commercial sunbed usage".

Chief Executive of RAFT Leonor Stjepic is hoping that the Bill will be supported. "We know that under 35s using sunbeds regularly increase their risk of getting skin cancer by 75%. Skin cancer is an aggressive disease which can spread quickly to other parts of the body but it is also a cancer that can be prevented. We believe that the majority of skin cancers cases are as a result of over exposure to UV light. We need to do more to educate and raise awareness of skin cancer but banning under 18s from access to sunbeds is an important first step in trying to stop our young people from dying needlessly . "

RAFT calls for more support for education on the issue of skin cancer, and hopefully with the passing of the Private Members Bill young people will be more protected from harmful UV radiation.

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