



The Tanning Tax is Unfair and should be repealed

Don and Tammy Hedlind

What is wrong with Washington DC these days? Answer: Everything! As many readers of this magazine are aware, we have been writing about the health benefits of tanning for 3 years now and finally Washington hears us, in the form of an “excise tax.” You know what they say about too much exposure, “people find out and think they can make a buck off ya!” Well I guess the government has decided they want to level a tax on tanning. Why? What is their reasoning “they do not have one!” This is not good, because your industry could be next. Tattoo guy/gal wake up and smell the coffee, because tattoos are very expensive to remove and to some politicians they may be ugly; forget the fact, that you have the freedom to get one if you choose and should not be penalized for it. Hair salon, you may be using a product on your client’s hair that is not good for the environment. Hey if you own the Dairy Queen, Pizza Hut, Taco Johns, McDonalds, “greasy spoon” restaurant etc. I would be very worried, if they want you to post the calorie counts for your food, then they are eventually going to want to interfere with your business plan and strategy. There seems to be a “claw-back” mode going on with the government and guess who gets to pay it? Yep the Consumer! Sixteen Thousand new IRS agents are very scary!

What happens when the Heart Association comes out with a new report that details that “fast food” is bad for you and that includes Ma and Pa’s restaurant they spent 30 years building? Of course, most of us are already aware of this and exercise the right of free-

dom to spend our money at our favorite restaurant, if we choose. Now that the government is responsible for and controls your health care, BAM a new tax on hamburgers, omelets, shakes, pies, etc. If we let the government dictate the way we live our lives, we are doomed; their control over our lives should not ever be to the level it is now. Our founders never wanted government to control their citizens, the way this government is trying to control us. Many soldiers have perished fighting for the very rights our constitution affords us and politicians are slowly eroding away. Many, who moved to Montana in the last 10 years, did so, so we would be left alone from high taxes, meddling politicians and school boards. Montana is still one of the “freest and most independent” states in the country. To keep it this way, we must all oppose the government trying to run our healthcare and “in turn” every aspect of our lives. Since they have now made themselves responsible for paying for our healthcare, they have set us up for complete control through regulation and taxation without representation. How could anyone vote for something that does not take effect until 2014, but starts taking money out of “hard-working” Americans pockets in 1 year.

Speaking of government, it is my opinion we should hold those responsible for this mess accountable in November. Please support the candidate who is for “smaller government” and less taxes and we as a nation will survive the assault from our own government. That includes our Senators Baucus and Tester. Defunding the bill in Jan 2011, by a new majority, will

show the government they cannot just tax a service, because they want to. Think about what you do for a living, you could be next. The ‘tan tax’ is unfair and some are saying it is racist, because the largest majority of tanners are Caucasians with very little if any African American patrons. I will not go there, but I will say it is an unfair tax and must be passed onto the consumer, if the mostly small “female-owned” businesses are going to survive. It would be much more fair and equitable if the government would have just levied a tax on all non-essential services and goods. This is essentially what they did “you just don’t know it yet!” Voters in Montana, Oregon and Maine have consistently defeated the politicians trying to siphon their dollars in the form of a “sales tax” but guess what just happened in Washington? Stay tuned for further details.

New Tanning News: A North Carolina dermatologist, Wake Forest University’s Dr. Steven Feldman, is recommending indoor tanning for some patients suffering with chronic pain. Feldman conducted a research trial of fibromyalgia patients which revealed that those who used a tanning bed actually had their pain decline as compared to those who weren’t exposed to UV light. He attributes the relief to the release of endorphins that results from exposure to ultraviolet rays. The study lasted a month and a half.

One of his patients, Laura Hemrick, first tried exercise and drug therapy to treat her chronic fibromy-

algia – an illness that reveals itself with symptoms such as loss of energy and mental clarity, as well as lots of pain. However, she reveals that the only action that’s brought relief for her is indoor tanning. Her therapy has consisted of using a tanning booth three times a week for 12 to 15 minutes per visit. She much preferred that to the increased sickness she felt when trying to take prescription medicine for her symptoms. Because I am a paraplegic, I suffer from “chronic pain” and I have found this to be true. When I tan it gives my body a feeling of euphoria and therefore the pain disappears. It is most likely due to the increase of serotonin in my brain, therefore relieving my body of the pressures of chronic pain on my back. Beyond fibromyalgia, Feldman also acknowledges that indoor tanning equipment has been used to treat the skin condition psoriasis.

At Club Sun we are Smart Tan Certified to help you achieve a beautiful tan on an appropriate tanning schedule. Our salons have been voted as “Salon of the Month” in July 2008 for North America by the ITA (International Tanning Association) and recently picked as “One of the Top 250 Salons” in America by Looking Fit Magazine. On top of our education, awards and customer service we strive to make your tanning experience the best you’ve ever had. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Spreading Sunshine, It’s What We Do!

