

PEDIATRIC SUN PROTECTION FOUNDATION ASSISTS IN SENATE PASSING BIPARTISAN MEASURE NAMING MAY 'MELANOMA AWARENESS MONTH'

GLENVIEW, IL, COOK, May 30, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In a successful strike against skin cancer, the Senate passed a resolution designating May "Melanoma Awareness Month" thanks to the efforts of Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Jack Reed (D-RI), along with the American Academy of Dermatology and The Pediatric Sun Protection Foundation (PSPF). Additionally, Dr. Amy Brodsky, a dermatologist and the creator and president of the PSPF, was a persistent and driving force in this initiative.

This Senate Resolution takes steps to substantially reduce melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer through education by underscoring the dangers of childhood sun exposure. The resolution, which passed unanimously, supports the goals and ideals of Melanoma Awareness Month, which includes supporting research for prevention, detection, treatment and a cure for melanoma. The resolution also encourages the use of sunscreen and protective clothing and supports initiatives in the medical community to help spread greater awareness of the importance of regular skin checks and the proper application of sunscreen.

"As a mother, I want my children to enjoy playing outside, but as a dermatologist who treats skin cancer, I am constantly reminded of the dangers of childhood sun exposure. I am so pleased to be a part of such an important public health initiative. I look forward to seeing the mindset on sun safety change during my children's lifetime," said Dr. Amy Brodsky, the president of the Pediatric Sun Protection Foundation (PSPF), a dermatologist and member of The American Academy of Dermatology Association.

"Raising awareness about preventing melanoma, as well as knowing the signs to catch it early, are critical in the fight against this cancer, and we hope that all Americans will be vigilant as summer approaches," said Senator Dick Durbin. "Melanoma isn't always the first type of cancer that comes to mind, but this skin cancer can be just as deadly," he added.

"When more than 160,000 Americans will be diagnosed with melanoma this year and nearly 1 million Americans are living with melanoma, we know we have a problem," said Senator Johnny Isakson. "As a survivor of melanoma myself, I'm doing all I can to help protect Americans and prevent this form of cancer from becoming more prevalent than it already is."

"I am pleased to join with Senator Isakson and Senator Durbin in raising awareness of melanoma and encouraging people to protect themselves from sun damage that can lead to skin cancer. At the federal level, we must continue to invest wisely in life-saving cancer research that can lead to new treatments, breakthroughs, and cures," said Senator Jack Reed.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. While the prevalence of other

cancers is decreasing, melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers are among the fastest-growing cancers in the country. Children and adolescents are particularly at risk for ultraviolet radiation skin damage since their skin hasn't fully developed and their skin cells divide at an accelerated pace compared to adults. People who experience five or more blistering sunburns between ages 15 and 20 increase their risk of melanoma by 80 percent and non-melanoma skin cancer by 68 percent. Dr. Amy Brodsky is available for interviews as her schedule allows.

About PSPF

The Pediatric Sun Protection Foundation's mission is to prevent skin cancer by educating children and caretakers about the dangers of childhood sun exposure. This philanthropic endeavor was founded by renowned dermatologist Dr. Amy Brodsky in 2012.

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