



Dear FAD Members,

We are making a call for action on a potential for dermatologists in Florida to help our patients gain access to skin cancer screenings.

Currently, skin cancer screenings are not a covered benefit for most commercial insurance plans in Florida. Also, in the Affordable Care Act, skin cancer screenings are not one of the 22 screenings considered “Essential Health Benefits.” Screenings for conditions such as breast cancer, colorectal cancer, cervical cancer, and lung cancer (in smokers) are provided with no financial responsibility of the patient.

Florida, the Sunshine State, has an epidemic of skin cancer due to significant sun exposure. Florida has the highest skin cancer prevalence rate and has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate (behind Hawaii) of new melanomas per capita. Patients screened for skin cancers are more likely to have melanomas detected at an early stage. Melanomas that are detected at an early stage have better outcomes and are significantly more cost effective. Therefore, it is critical that patients in Florida have access to skin cancer screenings by dermatologists.

**Just this week, Senator Gayle Harrell introduced [SB 142](#), a law that would make skin cancer screenings a preventative benefit of most commercial insurances in Florida.** The FAD fully supports this legislation and we commend Senator Harrell on her commitment to protecting, improving, and saving the lives of the people in Florida by ensuring access to skin cancer screenings.

SB 142 will go to session in March, so we need to act now in order to educate and push for this. This is a unique opportunity to make a statement in Florida about the importance of providing optimal care for our dermatology patients.

Please consider the difference this would make for our patients and donate to our PAC to help make this a reality. We know that everyone feels comfortable with giving different amounts, but we ask that this year you give as *generously* as possible. This is our chance to make a real difference. You can give personally or from your business. You also don't have to be a member of FAD to give.



**Joely Kaufman, MD**  
President, Florida Academy of Dermatology



**Amy Derick, MD**  
Chairwoman, Dermatology PAC of Florida

**DONATE to the DERMATOLOGY PAC OF FLORIDA!**