

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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4th Annual Skin Cancer Screening Day at the State House

Senators Resor and Timilty join the MA. Academy of Dermatology and the Melanoma Foundation of New England to host the event

(Boston, MA): Dermatologists conducted free skin cancer screenings today at the State House in Boston. Seventy-five legislators and staff, many of whom had never been examined before by a dermatologist or used a face-screening machine, attended the screening.

The free event was hosted by State Senator Pam Resor (D-Acton) and Senator James E. Timilty (D-Walpole) in conjunction with the *Melanoma Foundation of New England* and Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology.

"Skin cancer is epidemic in our country today," said Dr. Kathryn Bowers, a **Concord** dermatologist and Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology President. "More than one million Americans will probably get skin cancer this year. However, if detected and treated early, this disease can often be cured. If we learn the early warning signs of skin cancer and conduct self examinations, we can put a stop to this ever-growing epidemic."

Deb Girard, Executive Director of the **Concord-based Melanoma Foundation of New England** said, "Less than one-third of Americans currently examine their skin for signs of melanoma. When treated in its earliest stages, melanoma can be cured. If not treated early, the disease can quickly spread to other parts of the body and can be fatal."

"The key to the successful treatment of skin cancer is early detection and treatment," state Senator Timilty said, "With melanoma, early detection is easy because the signs are visible on the surface of the skin."

Senator Resor continued I am honored to have been able to host such an important event at the State House. We have received great feedback on this and last year's event from legislators and staff who took advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the dangers associated with melanoma. In fact, the screening detected two melanomas that will be followed up. We saved lives today!"

The Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology is the professional society for more than 300 practicing dermatologists in the Commonwealth. It is committed to advancing the diagnosis and medical, surgical, and cosmetic treatment of the skin, hair, and nails; advocating high standards in clinical practice, education, and research in dermatology; and supporting and enhancing patient care for a lifetime of healthier skin.

The Melanoma Foundation of New England is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about the importance of early detection and prevention, and helping patients and their caregivers cope with melanoma. Skin cancer is the number one diagnosed cancer in the United States. Melanoma is the most preventable cancer. The Foundation was founded in 1999 and is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that provides educational programs, support groups, and advocacy for melanoma patients. Learn more about the Foundation at: www.mfne.org.



PHOTO (l-r) Dr. Kathryn Bowers, President, Mass. Academy of Dermatology, Dr. Daniel Finn, vice President, Mass. Academy of Dermatology, Dr. Karen Rothman, Chair, State House Skin Screening, Deb Girard, Executive Director, Melanoma Foundation of New England, and Senator James E. Timilty (D-Walpole)