



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 22, 2006

PLEASE CONTACT:

Ryann Fairweather 617.722.1120

2nd Annual Skin Cancer Screening Day at the State House

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

(Boston, MA): Dermatologists conducted free skin cancer screenings today at the State House in Boston. One hundred 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 Massachusetts Melanoma Foundation and Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology.

"Skin cancer is epidemic in our country today," said Dr. Kathryn Bowers, 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 Massachusetts Melanoma Foundation 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 six 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 Massachusetts Melanoma Foundation was founded in 1999 to combat the rising rate of melanoma and melanoma deaths in Massachusetts. The mission of the foundation is to save lives by reducing the incidence of melanoma through public awareness campaigns targeting sun protection, assisting those struggling with melanoma by developing support programs across the state and supporting educational research that will bring about sun related behavior change.

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