

Anthony F. Cole, JD
310 Hyde Park Drive
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September 10, 2007

The Honorable Tom Brinkman, Jr.
Chairman and Members
House Commerce and Labor Committee
77 S. High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members:

I write in strong support of House Bill 230 that would prohibit minors from patronizing tanning parlors unless prescribed by a physician.

As a lifelong conservative, I believe that government regulation of individual or private interests can only be justified by the most compelling and overriding public policy considerations. Such considerations indisputably exist in the present case.

Ultraviolet rays are carcinogenic agents whether originating from natural sunlight or tanning rays. However, tanning parlor ultraviolet rays penetrate more deeply and are more damaging than natural sunlight. Indeed, 20 minutes of tanning bed exposure does more damage to the skin, the body's largest organ, than five hours of natural sunlight.

Given that: (1) skin cancers directly linked to ultraviolet light exposure have more than doubled over the last 20 years (even as the incidence of some other cancers has decreased); (2) people typically receive 50-80% of their lifetime exposure to ultraviolet rays by age 18; and (3) one in five children and an astounding 50% of all individuals who reach age 65 will develop skin cancer; the time to act on House Bill 230 is now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony F. Cole". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "C".

Anthony F. Cole, JD