

October 26, 2007
Betty Lacey, Raising Awareness about Your Skin, Co Chair
816 Grants Trail
Dayton, Ohio 45459

Representative Tom Brinkman, Chairman
Commerce and Labor Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
3215 Hardisty Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45208

Dear Chairman Brinkman and Members of the Commerce and Labor Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 230. For the past seven years I have given skin cancer awareness presentations to students in the fourth-twelfth grades. I have seen first hand the large number of teens who patronize tanning companies; the practice is rampant in Miami Valley high schools. Even though most high school students know the dangers of tanning lamps, they tan anyhow; a tan supersedes health issues. This attitude is the norm.


Not only do they use tanning lamps in impressive numbers, teens sometimes go tanning multiple times within one day using several different companies! There is no way for the industry to track where and how much a client tans when multiple companies are used.

One presentation given to fourth and fifth graders was especially alarming. When asked how many of their parents tanned, 50% of students raised their hands. Next I asked how many of them had been inside a tanning bed themselves and much to my surprise, nearly half raised their hands! Obviously, the parents were facilitators.

The health problems related to tanning beds are frightening enough but they are compounded by the fact that clients can become 'hooked' on the UV rays. UVA is predominately used in the lamps. It has been proven that UVA induces a sense of well-being and relaxation. It is known that some tanning clients tan to 'chill out' as much as to get some color. Every now and then a tanning industry worker is in my audience. When asked, they almost always can think of clients who are the ultimate 'regulars'.

I strongly support banning commercial tanning rays to youth under 18. In fact, I would support a ban for anyone under 21. The evidence is clear; the intense rays bring on many medical problems much, much faster, the worst being a lethal version of skin cancer. You have the power to save many young lives from this fate. Please vote for H.B. 230.

Sincerely,


Betty A. Lacey, RAYS co-chair