

09-05-2007

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

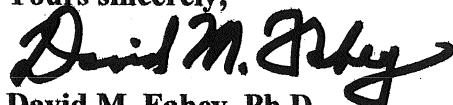
Dear Chairman Brinkman and Members of the Commerce and Labor Committee:

**I write in support of House Bill 230. If enacted, it would prohibit tanning parlors from allowing minors to use commercial tanning beds and sunlamps. According to the National Institute of Health, 20 minutes of tanning parlor ultraviolet radiation does as much damage as five hours of natural sunlight. Hoping to protect underage Ohioans from skin cancer and other health problems, Ohio's medical professionals support House Bill 230.**

**Government can't do everything and shouldn't try to do so, but it has special obligations to minors. For instance, in Ohio adults can buy cigarettes while minors can't. The state of Ohio does not rely entirely on education or on parents to prevent minors from buying cigarettes. Instead, it makes it illegal to sell cigarettes to them. Similarly, tanning parlors should be prohibited from selling ultraviolet radiation to persons under age 18.**

**I am not a physician, but as someone who on three occasions has been treated for basal cell skin cancer and whose mother-in-law died from a melanoma, I am painfully aware that skin cancer matters. I urge support of House Bill 230 to protect young Ohioans from artificial ultraviolet radiation.**

Yours sincerely,



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