

October 8, 2007

Representative Courtney E. Combs
Commerce and Labor Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
311 Nilles Road, Suite F
Fairfield, OH 45014

Dear Representative Combs:

I write to urge your support for House Bill 230, which restricts access to skin cancer causing tanning beds by minors.

I specialize in treating skin cancer and have seen an increasing number of younger and younger patients with basal and squamous cell carcinoma as well as the deadly melanoma in my practice.

Many of these bemoan their past abuse of tanning beds and some admit an addiction. I am seeing melanoma precursors (dysplastic nevi) and melanoma in the strangest places, places only normally accessible to the skin in a tanning bed.

I have no doubt these tanning beds cause cancer as well as flares of herpes simplex and premature aging and cataracts. These tanning beds are widely advertised as harmless or even as being good for you.

I believe it is good policy and the responsible thing to do is to restrict access to these devices at least until age 18. Please support House Bill 230.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett M. Coldiron M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Brett M. Coldiron, M.D.
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