

The Honorable Tom Brinkman
77 S. High St., 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Dear Chairman Brinkman:

On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), representing 20,000 physicians, residents, and medical students, we respectfully urge your support of House Bill 230, legislation that would prohibit the sale of tanning parlor ultraviolet (UV) radiation to people under the age of 18. In addition to the OSMA, the American Medical Association, Ohio Dermatological Association, American Academy of Dermatology, Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Melanoma No More, and Skin Cancer Foundation all support House Bill 230.

People receive 80 percent of their dangerous lifetime exposure to UV radiation, or "tanning rays," before the age of 18, and numerous studies have revealed that skin cancer is closely associated with excessive UV light exposure before the age of 18. Of the 30 million tanning bed users in this country, 25 percent are teenagers. It is estimated that at least one out of every five children will develop skin cancer in their lifetime.

The medical community has become increasingly concerned about the many hazardous effects of UV radiation. Twenty years ago, there were approximately 500,000 cases of skin cancer diagnosed each year. Recently, there have been more than one million new cases of diagnosed annually. Most of these skin cancers were preventable and represent half of the more than two million total cancers diagnosed every year.

As Chairman of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, you have the opportunity to facilitate the passage of this important public health measure that will help to protect the well-being of Ohio's children. Again, on behalf of the medical community, we urge your support of House Bill 230 and ask the committee to hold a vote on this legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Craig W. Anderson, MD
President, Ohio State Medical Association



Tim Maglione, Esq.
Senior Director, Government Relations
Ohio State Medical Association

Cc: Speaker Jon Husted
Minority Leader Joyce Beatty