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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 in support of House Bill 230, which Representative Courtney Combs is introducing. This bill will help protect the children of Ohio from increased skin cancer from UV radiation in tanning beds. The FDA has recently declared UV light a carcinogen. Therefore, it seems obvious that children should avoid its rays. Unfortunately, some parents are not able to resist their child's request for tanning, giving in to their pleadings. Studies have also shown tanning sessions are addictive resulting in increasing use by the child.

The results at best are early aging of skin and increasing wrinkles. However, at worst, the rays cause cell damage resulting in skin cancers. Squamous cell cancer and malignant melanoma can be fatal even if "caught early." The increase in the incidence of these cancers has risen dramatically in the last few decades. The expense of caring for these cancers is also rising each year.


We recognize, after age 18, the persons will do what they wish but, prior to reaching the age of maturity, we can still protect the children. We restrict smoking and alcohol consumption to adults only as there are known health problems associated with their use.

I wish we could depend on the warning of the dangers of UV radiation to steer parents to prevent their children from seeking a "healthy tan." However, the marketing of the tanning industry is very effective and successful in convincing many of the safety of UV radiation.

The prohibition of sale of tanning bed time to minors under 18 will save lives and some money in our most important segment of society – those who cannot protect themselves.

I urge your support of Ohio House Bill 230. As a physician, I feel strongly that its passage will have a significant positive impact on our future generations.

Sincerely,



Harry M. Davin, M.D.
Medical Director of VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
Internist with Alliance Primary Care Physicians

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