

JOHN E. DOLIBOIS

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG 1981-1985
VICE PRESIDENT EMERITUS, MIAMI UNIVERSITY

3509 Evergreen Ridge Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

[513] 761-0869

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**Chairman Tom Brinkman
House of Representatives
3215 Hardisty Avenue, Floor 11
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208**

Dear Chairman Brinkman and Commerce and Labor Committee Members:

When I was young, I used to be very proud of my summer tans, achieved after hours on the sunlit beach and at the poolside. Then, ten years ago, I was diagnosed with malignant melanoma, the second most common form of skin cancer. Surgery was needed on my chest, and a skin graft was required. Unsightly scars on my chest and thigh prevent me from ever again appearing in public in a bathing suit.

Since then I have learned much about exposure to ultra-violet (UV) rays that damage the body's largest organ, the skin. I've learned that the hazardous effects of ultraviolet radiation include skin cancer formation, premature aging of the skin, cataract formation, and other health problems. I have also learned that Tanning parlor rays penetrate deeper and do more harm than natural sunlight. The Food and Drug Administration has ruled that tanning rays are carcinogenic agents and the World Health Organization recently recommended that no one under the age of 18 use tanning beds and sunlamps.

Thus, my own experiences and the facts I have become aware of, have prompted me to write to you and as many other legislators as possible about this serious matter. Many who used tanning parlors in their youth have quit using them and are now educating their children and others to avoid them. I sincerely hope you will study the facts and realize that no one has the right to endanger the health of children and raise their future healthcare costs.

My family and I urge you to pass House Bill #230.

Respectfully yours,

John E. Dolibois

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