

HERITAGE HEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.  
Primary Care Physicians

**Family Practice**

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August 15, 2007


Representative Tom Brinkman  
Chairman and Members of Commerce & Labor Committee  
House of Representatives  
77 South High Street, Floor 11  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Brinkman and Commerce & Labor Committee Members,

- Because tanning ultraviolet radiation has been shown to be carcinogenic by the FDA whether it comes from tanning parlors or natural sunlight;
- Because tanning parlor radiation penetrates deeper and does more harm than natural sunlight;
- Because it may take only 20 minutes of hazardous tanning parlor radiation to do the damage of 5 hours of natural sunlight;
- Because exposure to tanning ultraviolet radiation at a young age results in increased potential for development of melanoma and other skin cancers;
- Because young people are being socially peer pressured to obtain excess exposure to tanning ultraviolet radiation;
- Because melanoma of the buttocks is on the rise;
- Because only token cleanliness of tanning beds takes place and it is virtually impossible to completely sterilize and autoclave tanning beds from the viruses, bacteria and fungi of previous users;
- Because there is a tremendous increase in the incidence of herpes infection of the buttocks and virtually everyone that develops herpes infection of the buttocks is a frequent tanning bed user;
- Because going to a tanning bed is like wearing somebody else's underwear for 20 minutes, and for so many other reasons:

I encourage your vote for House Bill 230 sponsored by Representative Courtney Combs which would promote the safety and health of children and reduce their future cost of health care by prohibiting the sale of tanning parlor radiation to those that are 17 years of age or younger.

Sincerely,

  
Chad H. Dunkle, M.D.