

G. SCOTT DREW, D.O.
Dermatology
Dermatological Surgery

November 9, 2007

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:

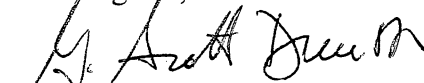
Ultraviolet radiation, whether it comes from tanning beds or natural sunlight, is the single most important factor in the development of skin cancer. However, tanning bed radiation penetrates deeper and does more harm. While people of all demographic groups utilize tanning facilities, it is most disconcerting that children under the age of 18 currently have access to these facilities and because of their potential for prolonged exposure over the course of many years they are at the highest risk for development of skin cancer.

One of your colleagues in the house, Representative Courtney Combs, of Hamilton has introduced House Bill 230, which would limit access to artificial tanning facilities and prohibit those under 18 from accessing them. OSMA, the ODA, the ACS and physicians across Ohio and the nation are all increasingly concerned about the hazardous effects of ultraviolet radiation including skin cancer, cataract formation, macular degeneration, blindness and the impairment of the immune system as well as the other risk factors associated with tanning bed usage such as herpes simplex infection and other contagious diseases.

I know that you are well aware of the importance of keeping our children safe, healthy and educating them so that they may become well-informed citizens. Please join us in supporting the passage of House Bill 230 to protect our children from suffering the ill effects of artificial UV radiation. The National Institute of Health (NIH) states that 20 minutes of tanning facility UV radiation is comparable to five hours of natural sun light exposure and since most people receive the majority of their life time exposure to UV radiation before the age of 18, clearly minors are at a high risk of damage from these facilities.

Please support the passage of House Bill 230 and urge your colleagues in the House to pass this Bill out of committee and into the full House. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,


G. Scott Drew, D.O.

GSD/fr
1040 Delaware Avenue
P.O. Box 1814
Marion, Ohio 43301-1814

a caring team in our community

(740) 383-7000
(800) 282-6741 (Ohio only)
(740) 383-7084 (Fax)