

DERMPATH DIAGNOSTICSSM
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9/10/2007

Representative Tom Brinkman, Chairman
Commerce and Labor Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
3215 Hardisty Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45208

Re: House Bill 230

Dear Chairman Brinkman and Members of the Commerce and Labor Committee:

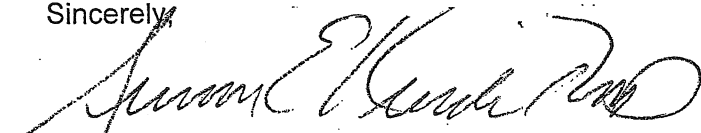
I am writing to you in support of House Bill 230, which would prohibit children under the age of eighteen years from using indoor tanning facilities in Ohio. Ultraviolet radiation exposure, whether from artificial sources, such as a tanning bed, or from natural sunlight is carcinogenic and the single largest environmental factor implicated in the development of skin cancer. Because the majority of our lifetime ultraviolet light exposure occurs before the age of 18 years, the passage of this bill is so important.

Skin cancer rates have reached epidemic proportions with one out of every five children projected to develop skin cancer in their lifetime. The incidence of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, is increasing at a rate of 4% per year which is faster than any other type of cancer. The rate of pediatric melanoma has increased 100% in the last 20 years and currently melanoma is the number one cancer killer in women between the ages of 25 and 29. The lifetime risk of developing melanoma in the United States is one in 62.

While the indoor tanning bed lobby will have you believe that tanning beds are "safe" and that tans from a tanning bed "protect you from sunburns," there simply is no such thing as a "safe tan." The intensity of tanning bed ultraviolet light exposure is such that it takes only twenty minutes of exposure to produce the same amount of damage as five hours of natural sunlight exposure. In a recent study, women less than 30 years of age who used a tanning bed at least 10 times a year had eight times the risk of developing melanoma.

Please make a difference! Support House Bill 230 to protect the future health of Ohioians.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Kindel, M.D.