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Pediatric Associates

FAIRFIELD

HAMILTON

WEST CHESTER

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October 1, 2007

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

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(1940-1983)

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

I am writing this letter in support of HB 230. I am a pediatrician, a professor of pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the Commissioner of Health for Butler County. I also suffer from skin cancer.

HB 230 will promote the safety and the skin health of children in the state of Ohio. It is in the interest of public health that minors be prohibited from using tanning parlors, just as we prohibit their use of alcohol or tobacco products.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of ultraviolet light and photoradiation. The effects are cumulative over a lifetime, but the younger the person is when commencing such practices, the greater the risk of all types of skin cancer. While adults may choose to engage in risky behaviors that are legal, we, as a society, must not allow our children to have this choice.

It all comes down to legislating public health measures that protect minors. A parent may not, under current law, consent to his/her children purchasing and consuming tobacco or alcohol. It is common sense that parents not be allowed to waive restrictions to their children using tanning beds in public establishments.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Lerer