

WARWAR EYE GROUP

RONALD E. WARWAR, M.D.
OPHTHALMIC SURGERY
OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC, LACRIMAL,
AND ORBITAL SURGERY

3100 GOVERNOR'S PLACE BOULEVARD
KETTERING, OHIO 45409

TELEPHONE
(937) 297-7676

FAX

(937) 297-7690

24 HOUR PAGE

(937) 463-1607

E-MAIL

rwarwar@warwareyegroup.com

WEBSITE

www.warwareyegroup.com

GREGORY J. BRUCHS, O.D.
OPTOMETRY
CONTACT LENS MANAGEMENT
LOW VISION AIDS
ARTIFICIAL EYES

November 20, 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:

As an ophthalmologist, I would like to write in support of House Bill 230 in order to protect the sight, health, and safety of children and to reduce their future health care costs by prohibiting children under the age of 18 from using hazardous tanning bed ultraviolet (UV) radiation in the state of Ohio. As with many diseases, problems from exposure to insults such as ultraviolet radiation at a young age become manifest later in life. UV radiation is known to contribute to the development of cataracts and macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in seniors in this country. As ophthalmologists, we see many cases of UV keratitis in younger patients after tanning bed use because of lack of adequate eye protection. Thus, it is clear that many children are exposing their eyes to excessive UV radiation while using tanning beds, putting them at greater risk to develop these potentially blinding conditions later in life.

The FDA has ruled that hazardous ultraviolet radiation is carcinogenic whether it comes from tanning beds or natural sunlight. However, hazardous tanning parlor ultraviolet radiation penetrates deeper and does more harm than natural sunlight. The National Institutes of Health states that it may take only 20 minutes of hazardous tanning bed radiation to do the damage of 5 hours of natural sunlight.

According to some former tanning parlor operators, the vast majority of tanning bed users do not utilize protective eyewear in order to avoid the "raccoon eye" appearance that results. Thus, it is clear that far too many tanning bed users, including children, do not utilize appropriate protective eyewear.

Please support House Bill 230 in order to protect the sight, health, and safety of these children now and in their future.

Sincerely,



Ronald E. Warwar, M.D.