

# Alliance Primary Care

Health Alliance™

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Family Practice

Andrew P. Schulz, M.D.

09/07/2007

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 a physician and member of the Ohio State Medical Association and Butler County Medical Association Chapter, I am writing in **strong support** of state legislation proposing the forbiddance of minors from tanning beds without physician prescription, ie **House Bill 230**..

The FDA has ruled that ultraviolet rays from tanning beds are carcinogenic, and the NHI has confirmed that tanning parlor rays penetrate the human skin much deeper than natural sunlight, exposing the body to the equivalent of 5 hours of sunlight with only 20 minutes of exposure to the harmful tanning parlor rays.

The incidence of skin cancer, which is largely preventable, is increasing over the past 20 years, with 1 million new cases diagnosed in this country annually. Melanoma, the most serious and lethal skin cancer, is the leading cancer cause of death in women as young as 25-29. The WHO has recommended that no one under the age of 18 use tanning beds due to this strong evidence.

The tanning industry unfairly markets the sale of UV radiation to naïve and uneducated minors, who will be exposed to an unnecessarily higher risk of skin cancer during their lifetime. They capitalize on the teenage population's pre-occupation with image, and unfairly market themselves to vulnerable, often insecure teenagers, around proms, dances, and other social events at school. The tanning bed industry will oppose this bill, but they only are focused on financial profits, not the well-being of minors.

In summary, I support legislation to ban the sale of tanning parlor UV light to minors under 18, without the prescription of a doctor. Please share this information with committee members and citizens at large, as you can help protect our teenagers from the dangers of tanning parlors. State legislation will ease the burden of "peer pressure" to look glamorous and tan, and protect minors from the aggressive advertising from the tanning industry, hoping to profit from teenagers' insecurity and pre-occupation with

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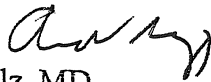
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image, glamour, etc. This type of legislation will also have an impact on controlling future health care costs and utilization through prevention awareness. **Please support House Bill 230.**

Sincerely,



Andrew Schulz, MD