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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:

It's good news indeed that the Ohio House of Representatives Commerce and Labor Committee is conducting hearings on House Bill 230 that if passed into law would restrict those persons ages 17 and under from using hazardous commercial tanning parlor radiation without a doctor's prescription.

The FDA has ruled that ultraviolet radiation is carcinogenic whether it originates from tanning parlors or natural sunlight. However, hazardous tanning parlor radiation penetrates deeper and does more harm than natural sunlight. The National Institute of Health states that it may only take 20 minutes of hazardous tanning parlor radiation to do the damage of 5 hours of natural sunlight. The World Health Organization states that no one under the age of 18 should use tanning beds.


The incidence of skin cancer in young people is rising at an alarming rate. The incidence of melanoma has increased 690 percent from 1950 to 2001. The American Academy of Dermatology states that House Bill 230 would help reduce the alarming increase in skin cancer by protecting children from this known carcinogen.

The Herculean efforts of the Ohio State Medical Association, the Ohio Dermatological Association and of many others to call to the Ohio Legislature's attention the need to protect children at the most vulnerable time of their lives from the many hazards of tanning bed ultraviolet radiation is greatly appreciated by virtually all of us located on the southern side of the Ohio River.

The American Medical Association and the American Academy of Dermatology are working with physicians in other states to protect children from the hazards of tanning. The Kentucky Dermatological Association is in the early stages of developing legislation similar to House Bill 230. In recent years, the AMA and the AAD tried to pass legislation at the federal level. However, the regulation of hazardous tanning bed ultraviolet radiation is at the state and local level and not at the federal level. So, unfortunately, physicians in each of the 50 states have to run the gauntlet before all of the American's great assets, its children, are protected from the hazards of tanning parlor ultraviolet radiation.

Please pass House Bill 230 and promote children's health and safety and reduce their future cost of healthcare. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Smith H. Gibson M.D.