

November 12, 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:

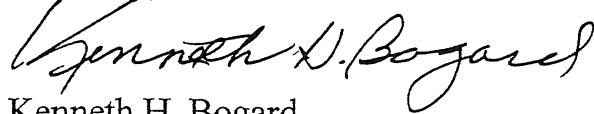
I write to support the prohibition of the sale of tanning bed ultraviolet rays to those under the age of 18. In reading the literature, on ultraviolet ray exposure on youth under the age of 18, the danger of skin cancers is enormous, especially as one matures into adulthood.

In 2006, I was diagnosed with a basal cell carcinoma on the top of my head. This was due to not wearing protection such as a cap when working outside or playing golf. Fortunately, I caught the problem in time for the growth to be removed leaving a small-size crater in my head. In my much younger days, I visited tanning beds in "prep" for spring trips to Florida. Little did I know then that the long-term effects of exposure to rays in tanning beds would lead to cancer. When I think back, the tanning bed reminds me of a coffin with bright lights!

We need to educate everyone, regardless of age, about the harmful effects of tanning beds. Research indicates that some skin cancers evolve through the use of tanning beds.

I urge you to please pass this legislation to protect our youth for their tomorrows.

Sincerely,



Kenneth H. Bogard
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Oxford, OH 45056