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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:

My daughter was a citizen of this community; she lived in Fairfield and worked in Hamilton. She was driven, self-taught, and determined. She was generous, motivated and optimistic. She was a single mom, devoted to her daughter. She volunteered at her church and was an aid at her daughter's school. She had two self-indulged habits: Mountain Dew and tanning.

She tanned to break the winter blahs. It was legal. She was in her twenties. She tanned to boost her self esteem. She received the educational information. She tanned for a week once or twice a year. She was sensible and didn't have any of the risk factors.

When she got very comfortable with the process, she tanned in the nude. The establishments she attended were very professional.

A mole, that never would have seen the light of day, was affected by the UV radiation of a tanning bed. She was diagnosed with stage four malignant melanoma at age forty. She was given six months.

Desperate for more time, she gladly enrolled in two different experimental programs. Thanks to the John Wayne Cancer Institute in California and the National Institute for Health in Washington D.C., my daughter lived almost four years. Her generous co-workers at Champion International were instrumental in facilitating for transportation to these hospitals.

Regardless of her reasons for tanning, regardless of the education provided, regardless of how seldom she tanned, regardless of the absence of risk factors, she got malignant melanoma and she died. And no parent should have to bury a child.

After her death, I had a mole removed from my arm – an arm that hasn't seen the sun for sixty years. The biopsy revealed stage one malignant melanoma. I'm fine, but now we know. It is in our family history and early exposure to hazardous ultraviolet radiation increases the chances of developing a skin cancer.

People make decisions every day based on the information at hand. There are risks in every decision. Let's eliminate these risks in our children's lives. Please pass House Bill 230. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rita Shafor