

9/05/2007

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,

Ohio House Bill No. 230 has officially been introduced into Ohio's House of Representatives by sponsor Representative Courtney Combs of Hamilton with numerous cosponsors. This is being done because the medical profession and other concerned organizations and citizens have become increasingly concerned about the many hazardous effects of ultraviolet radiation. This includes but not limited to skin cancer formation, premature skin aging, cataract formation and other eye damage including macular degeneration, tunnel vision and blindness.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently recommended that no one under the age of 18 years old use tanning beds and/or sun lamps. The Ohio State Medical Association, Ohio Dermatological Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Dermatology and virtually every medical organization and physician is very much concerned about the skin cancer epidemic America is experiencing. Twenty years ago there were about 500,000 cases of skin cancer diagnosed each year. Lately, there have been more than 1,000,000 new cases of skin cancer diagnosed each year and most of these skin cancers were preventable.

In turn, the Ohio Medical Association House of Delegates unanimously in conjunction with other interested parties passed a resolution on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to support the enactment of state legislation to protect all minors from the hazards of tanning parlor rays by prohibiting the sale of tanning parlor ultraviolet rays to those 17 years of age or younger. As well as in June 2006, the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates unanimously passed a resolution to develop model state legislation to prohibit the sale of tanning parlor ultraviolet rays to those 17 years of age or younger except as prescribed by a physician.

It is necessary that the legislators, medical profession, and other cooperate and join together in what could be considered a historical medical event in the passage of House Bill No. 230. We urge you to study the facts and recognize that no one has the right to willfully endanger and abuse a child's health and safety and raise their future health care costs.

I urge you to pass House Bill No. 230.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Kieffer  
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Sales Representative  
Dermatology Specialty  
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