



Ohio Chapter

December 10th, 2019

The Honorable Scott Lipps
Chairman, Health Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Health Committee—

On behalf of the 2,900 members of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 329, sponsored by State Representatives Hillyer and Lighbody.

It has been well established that exposure to ultraviolet radiation from tanning increases an individual's risk of skin cancer. Despite numerous health warnings, studies have shown that approximately 24% of teenagers have visited a tanning facility at least once.

In a 2011 policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that teenagers avoid using tanning beds due to the significant dangers posed by UV radiation exposure. Nationally, AAP has supported legislation to prohibit tanning bed use by teenagers. Passage of HB 329 would bring Ohio in line with 19 states that prohibit the use of tanning beds by teenagers.

There are less harmful alternatives to tanning as well as moderated, natural sunlight exposure that are safer for teenagers. HB 329 is common sense and in the best interest of Ohio teens.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to child health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

Melissa Wervey Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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94-A Northwoods Blvd
Columbus, OH 43235
Phone: (614)846-6258
Fax: (614)846-4025
Email: chapter@ohioaap.org
Website: www.ohioaap.org

President

Michael Gittelman, MD, FAAP
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Medical Center
3333 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45229
Phone: (513)636-2274
Email: mike.gittelman@cchmc.org

President-Elect

Jill Fitch, MD, FAAP
Nationwide Children's Hospital
700 Children's Dr, FB2222
Columbus, OH 43205
Phone: (614)722-3444
Email: jill.fitch@nationwidechildrens.org

Treasurer

Chris Peltier, MD, FAAP
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Medical Center
3333 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229
Phone: (513)752-3650
Email: chris.peltier@cchmc.org

Chief Executive Officer

Melissa Wervey Arnold
94-A Northwoods Blvd
Columbus, OH 43235
Phone: (614)846-6258
Fax: (614)846-4025
Email: marnold@ohioaap.org

Immediate Past-President

Robert Murray, MD, FAAP
1629 Berkshire Rd
Columbus, OH 43221-3907
Phone: (614)325-1097
Email: murraymd@live.com

AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
Phone: (847)434-4000
Fax: (847)434-8000
Email: kidsdocs@aap.org
Website: www.aap.org