



Ohio Osteopathic Association

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Testimony for the House Health Committee

Written testimony In Support of HB 329

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Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd and Members of the House Health Committee. On behalf of the Ohio Osteopathic Association which represents approximately 5,000 osteopathic physicians and more than 1,000 osteopathic medical students, I am writing you to urge support for HB 329. The health and wellbeing of young Ohioans all across the state will be protected through support for this bill.

HB 329 is a common sense, bipartisan measure that would prohibit sun lamp tanning services for minors. This legislation serves as a one form on preventive care with benefits that can last a lifetime. As you know, effective prevention provides not only improved health outcomes but also equates to reduced cost in the health care system.

A recent study published in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology shows that restricting indoor tanning among minors leads to the prevention of nearly 62,000 melanoma cases, 6,735 melanoma deaths, and saves \$342.9 million in treatment costs over the lifetime of the 61.2 million youth age fourteen or younger in the United States.¹ Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer and is the cause of 9,000 American deaths annually. The research also estimates that health benefits increase as indoor tanning was further reduced.

As is often the case in health care, education is essential. All patients--and especially parents--must be made aware of the dangers associated with indoor sun lamp tanning. A 2017 study shows that nearly half of all those who start tanning before age 16 do so with a family member.² Along with many other health organizations, the OOA will continue to inform the public of the health dangers associated with sun lamp tanning, especially as it relates to minors.

The OOA strongly urges your support of HB 329. Please feel free to contact the OOA with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ [https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622\(16\)30871-4/fulltext](https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622(16)30871-4/fulltext)

² Watson M, Shoemaker M, Baker K. Indoor Tanning Initiation Among Tanners in the United States. *JAMA Dermatol*. Published online March 22, 2017.
