



Representative Brett Hudson Hillyer
Ohio's 51st House District

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for giving me the chance to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 169, which has been reintroduced from the previous General Assembly.

House Bill 169 focuses on shielding Ohio's youth from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation emitted by indoor tanning beds. It is crucial to note that UV radiation from tanning beds has been classified by the US Department of Health and Human Services as a known carcinogen, signifying the highest level of risk. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer also recognizes it as "carcinogenic to humans," placing it in the same category as tobacco, mustard gas, and asbestos. Moreover, the reduction of indoor tanning for minors is one of the objectives outlined in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy People 2020 goals.

It is essential to dispel the notion of a "safe" tan, as UV radiation inflicts damage on the skin's DNA, which is the initial step toward developing skin cancer. The use of indoor tanning beds has been linked to melanoma and other harmful effects on the eyes and skin. In Ohio alone, it was projected that 3,400 new cases of melanoma would be diagnosed in 2020. Disturbingly, about a third of indoor tanners begin tanning before the age of 18. Data indicates that a significant proportion of skin cancers can be prevented if individuals are shielded from UV radiation. Tragically, melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, is one of the most common cancer among young women. Even a single session of indoor tanning can elevate a user's risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma by almost 75% percent. Researchers estimate that indoor tanning may contribute to over 419,000 cases of skin cancer annually in the United States. The usage of indoor tanning devices is the foremost avoidable known risk factor for skin cancer.

To prevent future cases of skin cancer, it is imperative that we enact legislation prohibiting the use of indoor tanning for all individuals under the age of 18. By lending your support to House Bill 169, Ohio can join the twenty other states and the District of Columbia that have already implemented bans on minors using indoor tanning beds.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 169. I would be happy to address any questions or concerns that you may have. Thank you.