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State Senator

14th Senate District



Senate Bill 59

Sponsor Testimony

Ohio Senate Health Committee

March 29, 2023

Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Health Committee: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 59.

Simply put, Senate Bill 59 seeks to protect our children from the harmful effects of tanning beds by prohibiting minors under the age of 18 from using indoor tanning beds. According to the American Academy of Dermatology Association, almost 33% of those who use tanning beds first began their use before the age of 18.¹ The ultraviolet light from tanning beds is a known carcinogen. Exposure to this harmful UV light at a young age can increase the risk of developing many types of skin cancer, including melanoma. It has been reported that tanning bed use prior to the age of 35 can increase the probability of developing melanoma by a startling 59%, and the likelihood of developing melanoma increases with each use.²

Current law in our state only allows a minor under the age of 18 to use indoor tanning beds with parental consent, but this bill will help protect even more children from the detrimental effects of indoor

¹ <https://www.aad.org/media/stats-indoor-tanning> (Watson M, Shoemaker M, Baker K. Indoor Tanning Initiation Among Tanners in the United States. JAMA Dermatol. Published online March 22, 2017. doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2016.5898)

² <https://www.aad.org/media/stats-indoor-tanning> (Boniol M, Autier P, Boyle P, Gandini S. Corrections: Cutaneous melanoma attributable to sunbed use: systematic review and meta-analysis. BMJ 2012;345:e8503; Lazovich, D, et al. Indoor Tanning and Risk of Melanoma: A Case-Control Study in a Highly Exposed Population. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2010 June;19(6):1557-1568.)

tanning beds. Twenty-two other states and Washington, D.C. also have laws prohibiting children under the age of 18 from indoor tanning.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of this life-saving issue. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.