

Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

May 24th 2023

The Honorable Steve Huffman, MD
Chairman, Health Committee
Ohio Senate
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman and Members of the Senate 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 Senate Bill 59, sponsored by State Senator Terry Johnson, DO.

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. Further, 1/3 of users first began tanning before age 18. These are alarming statistics that merit additional actions including passage of SB 59.

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 SB 59 would bring Ohio in line with nearly two dozen other states that prohibit the use of tanning beds by minors.

There are less harmful alternatives to tanning as well as moderated, natural sunlight exposure that are safer for teenagers. Passage of SB 59 is in the best interest of Ohio kids.

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, American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio Chapter

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