



May 24th, 2023

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony to Senate Bill 59, which would prohibit the provision of sun lamp tanning services to individuals under the age of 18.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer, accounting for nearly half of all cancer cases in the U.S. At UC Health and the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center, we treat a variety of skin cancers including melanoma and nonmelanoma. Melanoma is less common than basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers, but is more likely to spread to other parts of the body and can be deadly. Just this past week alone, I have seen two young Ohioans diagnosed with metastatic melanoma.

Among the most common risk factors for melanoma are excessive amount of time spent in the sun and the use of tanning booths/beds and sunlamps. Most skin doctors and health organizations including the American Cancer Society recommend not using tanning beds and sun lamps. Parental consent is required for a minor to use a sunlamp tanning salon, but current consent requirements are not enough to fully prevent minors without parental consent from gaining access to sun lamp tanning. Although this bill does not prevent use in private homes nor prevent minors from excessive sun UV light exposure, we do support this bill which attempts to ban the use of these public sunlamp tanning services by minors entirely and bring more awareness to the dangers of excess UV light exposure. Senate Bill 59 will save lives and reduce the number of devastating skin cancer diagnoses each year in Ohio.

On behalf of UC Health, we strongly support Senate Bill 59 and request the Ohio Senate Health Committee favorable report this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Sussman, MD, FACS
Interim Chair and Christian R. Holmes Professor of Surgery
Program Director, General Surgery
Department of Surgery
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine