

**Ohio Academy of Family Physicians  
Proponent Testimony- Senate Bill 59  
Ohio Senate Health Committee  
September 13, 2023**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 59 on behalf of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians.

The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians is a statewide professional association with 5,200 members, including practicing family physicians, family medicine residents, and medical students. Since 1948, the OAFP has represented the professional interests of Ohio family physicians, provided postgraduate medical education, and encouraged medical students to enter this field and to advance the patient-physician relationship. The mission of the OAFP is to improve the health of patients by advocating for and advancing the specialty of family medicine.

As family physicians, we must always consider what is in the best interest of patients. UV radiation exposure during childhood and adolescence increases risk of skin cancer later in life, especially when more severe damage occurs. Persons who use tanning beds and those with a history of sunburns or previous skin cancer are also at greatly increased risk of skin cancer. Senate Bill 59 takes an important step in prohibiting sun lamp tanning services for minors. We urge Ohio to join the twenty-three other states that have already done so. By furthering effective state oversight of this industry, the Ohio General Assembly can reduce the overall cost of healthcare including the billions of dollars for skin cancer treatment attributable to melanoma, and profoundly improve public health.

We greatly appreciate the work of Senator Johnson to bring this bill forward. We thank the committee for their consideration and encourage support for this important legislation to increase the level of state protection for adolescents and young adults from the dangers of indoor tanning.