

Dr. Terry Johnson

State Senator

14th Senate District



Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 25

Senate Health Committee

January 12th, 2025

Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Health Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 25.

This is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 59 from the previous General Assembly. Simply put, this bill seeks to protect our children from the harmful effects of indoor tanning beds by prohibiting their use for those under the age of 16 and implementing further restrictions to those aged 16 and 17.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology Association, adolescents who engage in indoor tanning before the age of 18 are more likely to continue indoor tanning as adults.¹ The ultraviolet light from tanning

¹ Solazzo AL, Geller AC, Hay JL, et al. Indoor Ultraviolet Tanning Among U.S. Adolescents and Young Adults: Results From a Prospective Study of Early Onset and Persistence. *J Adolesc Health*. Oct 2020 (<https://www.aad.org/media/stats-indoor-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 20 can increase the probability of developing melanoma by a startling 47%, and the likelihood of developing melanoma increases with each use.²

The UV intensity of an indoor tanning bed emits roughly 12 times the amount from natural sunlight.³ This means that by merely spending 10 minutes in an indoor tanning bed, it equates to 2 hours of exposure to the natural sun.

In the United States, we do not give our children access to alcohol, we do not give them access to cigarettes. Why should indoor tanning beds be an exception?

Under current law, those under the age of 16 merely need to obtain written consent and for the legal parent or guardian to be present for the duration of each session. This bill would prohibit that completely, a drastic improvement from our current situation.

² An S, Kim K, Moon S, et al. Indoor Tanning and the Risk of Overall and Early-Onset Melanoma and Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Cancers (Basel)*. Nov 25 2021 (<https://www.aad.org/media/stats-indoor-tanning>)

³ <https://www.unitypoint.org/news-and-articles/tanning-bed-vs-sun-which-is-more-dangerous>

For those aged 16 and 17, all that is necessary in our state is another written consent form, however this one is valid for a duration of 90 days from the date signed, good for up to **45** indoor tanning services. That is absolutely unacceptable. This bill would make it so the legal parent or guardian must be present for the duration of these session and that a consent form be signed for every use.

While not an outright ban, this legislation displays that there is so much more the State of Ohio could be doing to protect our children from the detrimental effects of indoor tanning beds.

Nineteen other states, including Washington D.C., have also implemented laws prohibiting children under the age of 18 from using indoor tanning services, an admission of the dire health concerns. This bill would be a step in the right direction for Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.