



**Proponent Testimony –
On Behalf of the Ohio Dermatological Association and the Ohio State Medical Association
SB 25: Use of Sun Lamp Tanning Services for Those Under 18
Ohio Senate Health Committee – April 2, 2025**

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 25 today. My name is Shannon Trotter and I am a board-certified dermatologist, practicing in Springfield and Canal Winchester, Ohio. I am here representing the Ohio Dermatological Association and the Ohio State Medical Association to express our strong support of this proposal.

As some of you may know, this legislation has been around for a few years now, and you may recall if you were on the committee last general assembly, that I previously testified in support of a prior version of this bill. At that time, we heard concerns from committee members about parental rights and in response to those concerns, modifications to the language have been made. Working with the sponsor of the bill, Senator Johnson, we have what is now SB 25 before you today. In the spirit of compromise, SB 25 is not a complete ban on use of indoor tanning beds by minors. Rather, this legislation retains parental consent and autonomy, while simply requiring that a parent or guardian not only gives consent for the services, but is also present with the individual under the age of 18 at each and any time that these services are rendered. With these changes, we keep parental rights intact and are still able to enhance patient protections for a vulnerable population with particular risks associated with indoor tanning.

In recent years, scientific developments have added to our understanding of the harmful effects of UV radiation from indoor tanning beds. The causal relationship between UV radiation from tanning beds and the development of skin cancer is based on data from numerous scientific research studies. And the science is clear – if you use indoor tanning beds, your risk of developing skin cancer significantly increases. Studies have found that indoor tanning can increase users' risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma by 58% and basal cell carcinoma by 24%. Indoor tanning is particularly dangerous for younger users and people who begin indoor tanning during adolescence have a higher risk of developing melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Research shows a person who has used tanning beds for more than 50 hours is two and a half to three times more likely to develop this form of cancer than a person who has never utilized these services. For all of these reasons, no amount of UV exposure from tanning beds is safe. There is no such thing as a safe tan. By definition, a tan is evidence of skin damage.

Over ten years ago, in late July 2014, the US Surgeon General issued a Call to Action on skin cancer which identified opportunities for the government, public and private organizations, health care providers and individuals to raise awareness of skin-protection practices. Specifically, the call to action said that that state laws restricting youths from tanning are effective.

Also in 2014, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) finalized changes to its regulation of tanning beds, including a strong recommendation against the use of tanning beds by minors under the age of 18. This order raises the classification for sun lamps and tanning beds to a Class II level, which institutes stricter regulations to protect public health. Additionally, the order requires tanning bed and lamp manufacturers to label sunlamp products with a visible black-box warning

that explicitly states that the sunlamp product should not be used on persons under the age of 18 years.

ODA and OSMA believe that protecting the public, especially adolescents, and requiring appropriate oversight of the indoor tanning industry will have a profound effect on improving public health and reducing overall health care costs. Annually, about \$3.3 billion of skin cancer treatment costs are attributable to melanoma. Of course, this figure does not begin to account for the tragic loss of life from this devastating disease.

To date, more than 40 states restrict access to indoor tanning equipment. The concept of placing limitations on use of carcinogenic or dangerous products is not new. Governments often enact laws in the interest of educating the public and trying to preserve the health and wellbeing of its citizens, especially those such as minors who are easily influenced. Our government restricts minors' use of tobacco and alcohol for this reason. For something that is classified as dangerous a substance as cigarettes, why do we make an exception for ultraviolet radiation exposure from indoor tanning? Skin cancer poses a major public health and safety concern and tanning remains the most modifiable risk factor in its etiology.

While in clinical practice, I have had many personal experiences with melanoma and skin cancer related to tanning bed use. Many of patients I have seen that were undergoing treatment for melanoma reported tanning bed use starting in their teens. Some even had a tanning bed in their house.

The education on this issue that we as physicians give to the public can only do so much to prevent our youth from being exposed to these dangers. Our message and our recommendations can be strengthened with your help through SB 25. Once again, I urge you and your colleagues to support this legislation in order to increase the level of state protection for adolescents and young adults from the dangers of indoor tanning in Ohio.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue, and I would be happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.