

**Senate Bill 25 – Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate Health Committee**  
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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 25, which would restrict the use of sun lamp tanning services among individuals under the age of 18 in Ohio. My name is Joan Tamburro, and I am a pediatric dermatologist at Cleveland Clinic Children's.

Cleveland Clinic Children's offers inpatient and outpatient diagnosis, consultation and treatment for newborns, infants, children and adolescents. We see patients at Cleveland Clinic's main campus and throughout the family health centers across Northeast Ohio. In my role as a pediatric dermatologist at Cleveland Clinic Children's, I specialize in common skin, hair and nail disorders, as well as complex genetic and infectious dermatologic complications. We provide clinical evaluation, diagnostic biopsies and advanced therapies when needed. Part of my work involves treating adolescents who have been diagnosed with skin cancer.

Melanoma is a type of skin cancer that develops in the pigmented cells in the skin. Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer and is responsible for more than 9,000 deaths in the United States each year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A recent study that looked at the potential impact of tanning beds shows that reducing indoor tanning could reduce the number of people developing melanoma, the number of people dying from melanoma, and the costs of treating this deadly disease. The study, published online in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, focused on people younger than age 18.

Young people are especially sensitive to the ultraviolet (UV) rays that tanning beds emit. The researchers estimated that restricting indoor tanning among minors under age 18 could prevent 61,839 cases of melanoma and prevent thousands of deaths each year.

Earlier research has shown that people who use tanning beds are 2.5 times more likely to develop squamous cell carcinoma and 1.5 times more likely to develop basal cell carcinoma. Even occasional sunbed use has been shown to almost triple your chances of developing melanoma. The study's results are consistent with what doctors know about melanoma — the younger a person starts tanning, the higher their risk is of developing the disease.

Indoor tanning is a known risk factor for developing skin cancers, including melanoma. Just one instance of indoor tanning increases a person's risk of developing melanoma by up to 79 percent.

Yet, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), more than 1.6 million teens tan indoors each year.

Senate Bill 25 can help in preventing skin cancer by restricting the number of teens who tan, and therefore greatly lessening their risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers.



It is for these reasons that Cleveland Clinic voices its support for the passage of SB 25. We are thankful to the bill sponsor, Senator Terry Johnson, for introducing this important bill.