



## **HB 159 Proponent Testimony to the House Health Committee**

May 17, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and Members of the House Health Committee:

On behalf of the Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA), I am writing you to urge support for HB 159. The OOA works on behalf of the more than 5,300 osteopathic physicians and 1,000 osteopathic medical students living in Ohio. The health and wellbeing of young Ohioans all across the state will be protected through the passage of this bill.

HB 159 is a common sense, bipartisan measure that would prohibit sun lamp tanning services for minors. This legislation prioritizes preventive care with benefits that can last a lifetime. As you know, effective prevention provides not only improved health outcomes but also equates to reduced cost in the health care system.

A recent study published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* shows that restricting indoor tanning among minors leads to the prevention of nearly 62,000 melanoma cases, 6,735 melanoma deaths, and saves \$342.9 million in treatment costs over the lifetime of the 61.2 million youth age fourteen or younger in the United States.<sup>1</sup> The research also shows that health benefits increase as indoor tanning was further reduced.

According to the American Cancer Society, cancer of the skin is the most common of all cancers. Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer and estimates from the American Cancer Society project more than 106,000 melanoma diagnoses and nearly 7,200 American deaths in 2021.<sup>2</sup>

As is often the case in health care, education is essential. All patients--and especially parents--must be made aware of the dangers associated with indoor sun lamp tanning. A 2017 study shows that nearly half of all those who start tanning before age 16 do so with a family member.<sup>3</sup> Along with many other health organizations, the OOA will continue to inform the public of the health dangers associated with sun lamp tanning, especially as it relates to minors.

The OOA strongly urges your support of HB 159. Please feel free to contact the OOA with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Harney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Harney  
Executive Director  
Ohio Osteopathic Association

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622\(16\)30871-4/fulltext](https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622(16)30871-4/fulltext)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/melanoma-skin-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>

<sup>3</sup> Watson M, Shoemaker M, Baker K. Indoor Tanning Initiation Among Tanners in the United States. *JAMA Dermatol*. Published online March 22, 2017.