



Senator Sandra Williams
21st Ohio Senate District

Senate Bill 250 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
February 26, 2020

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 250. If passed, this legislation will require the Ohio Department of Health to establish unique regulations for radiation emitting devices under 200 kilovolts for the purpose of allowing dermatologists to use superficial radiation therapy.

Under Ohio law, dermatologists are prevented from purchasing or using superficial radiation therapy because of prohibitive training requirements. Superficial radiation therapy is a safe and effective treatment for keloids and skin cancer.

Keloids are a condition that disproportionately affects African American and Asian populations. The National Institute of Health has published a study that shows the incident rate of Keloids in African American populations ranges from 15-20%. Keloids can be a devastating condition especially when present on a person's face because the growths continue to grow over time. Often when keloids are surgically removed, they grow back larger. Superficial radiation therapy is a curative treatment that permanently removes keloids in 90% of cases.

In American, one in five people will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime. Superficial radiation therapy has the same cure rate of 99% as surgical procedures. Superficial Radiation Therapy is non-surgical and does not damage the non-cancerous skin, meaning a patient can have their non-melanoma skin cancer treated without surgery. This treatment is not available to patients in Ohio who have their skin cancer treated by dermatologists. Today, 95% of skin cancer diagnoses are treated by dermatologists. Permitting dermatologists' access to this therapy would greatly improve patient treatment options in Ohio.

Thirty-nine states have reduced the training requirements to allow dermatologists to use superficial radiation therapy, allowing patients to seek this therapy to treat their keloids and non-melanoma skin cancer.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee this completes my testimony for Senate Bill 250. I will be happy to answer any questions.