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Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony along with Representative Lightbody on House Bill 159 which has been reintroduced from last general assembly.

House Bill 159 is aimed at protecting Ohio's children from the harmful use of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from indoor tanning beds. UV radiation from tanning beds has been classified at the highest level as a known carcinogen by the US Department of Health and Human Services, and is recognized as "carcinogenic to humans" by the World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer in the same category as tobacco, mustard gas, and asbestos. Additionally, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy People 2020 goals include the reduction of indoor tanning for minors.

Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a "safe" tan. UV radiation damages the skin's DNA, which is the first stage of skin cancer. Use of indoor tanning beds has been linked to melanoma as well as other acute damage to the eyes and skin. In 2018, 3,400 new cases of melanoma were expected to have been diagnosed in Ohio. Additional research indicates that more than a third of indoor tanners start tanning before the age of 18.

Data suggests that most skin cancers can be prevented if individuals are protected from UV radiation. However, the deadliest form of skin cancer, melanoma, is the second most common form of cancer in females between the ages 15 to 29. Even one indoor tanning session can increase a user's risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma by 67 percent. Researchers estimate that indoor tanning may cause upwards of 400,000 cases of skin cancer in the United States each year.

Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, and rates have been rising for the past 30 years. The greatest avoidable known risk factor for skin cancer is the use of indoor tanning devices. Prohibiting the use of indoor tanning for all minors under the age of 18 is critical to preventing future skin cancers. Please consider having Ohio join eighteen other states and the District of Columbia who have banned minors from using indoor tanning beds by supporting House Bill 329.

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony alongside Representative Lightbody on House Bill 159. I will be glad to answer any questions that the committee members may have. Thank you.