



May 1, 2013

The Honorable Lynn R. Wachtmann
Chair, House Health and Aging Committee
77 S. High St, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Dear Chairman Wachtmann:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) and the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) are writing to strongly encourage you to support HB 131. This bill would prohibit tanning facilities from allowing children younger than 18 years of age to use fluorescent sun lamp tanning devices without a prescription issued by a physician. The AOA, OOA and AOCD support imposing appropriate safety precautions upon tanning facilities.

The AOA proudly represents its professional family of more than 100,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students; promotes public health; encourages scientific research; serves as the primary certifying body for DOs; is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical colleges; and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. OOA is a professional organization that represents the nearly 5,000 DOs providing patient care in Ohio. AOCD represents over 600 physicians, dermatology residents and student members. It is dedicated to improving the standards of the practice of dermatology, stimulating the study of dermatology and promoting understanding of the nature and scope of services rendered by osteopathic dermatologists.

Sun lamp tanning devices work by bombarding the skin with UV radiation. Tanning salons use lamps that emit UV-A and UV-B radiation, both of which damage the skin and can cause skin cancer.¹ In 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a working group of the World Health Organization (WHO), classified UV-emitting tanning devices as a carcinogen, an agent known to cause cancer in humans.² Just last year, a study found that indoor tanning can cause the

¹ Food and Drug Administration, Indoor Tanning: The Risks of Ultraviolet Rays, May 11, 2010, *available at* <http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm186687.htm>.

² IARC, Sunbeds and UV Radiation, July 7, 2009, *available at* http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php.

The Honorable Lynn R. Wachtmann

May 1, 2013

Page 2

most common form of skin cancer, non-melanoma skin cancer, in addition to the deadliest form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma.³

Prohibiting minors from using tanning devices is an effective means to protect them from the long-term health risks associated with indoor tanning. Young people are at a heightened risk of developing skin cancer from indoor tanning, as they subject themselves to additional years of artificial UV exposure.⁴ For this reason, the WHO and the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) recommend banning the use of tanning devices by minors.⁵ States that have restricted access to indoor tanning for minors have seen stable or decreased rates of skin cancer, while states without these policies have seen an increase in the same.⁶

Sun lamp tanning devices have long-term health effects and their use by children should be restricted to include only medically necessary ultraviolet treatment prescribed by a physician. **We urge you to protect Ohio's children from artificial UV exposure by supporting HB 131 in committee.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, AOA Director of State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



Ray E. Stowers, DO, FACOFP *dist.*
President, AOA



John F. Ramey, DO
President, OOA



David Grice, DO, FAOCD
President, AOCD

CC: Norman E. Vinn, DO, AOA President-elect
Mark A. Baker, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs
Joseph A. Giaimo, DO, Chair, AOA Bureau of State Government Affairs
John B. Crosby, JD, AOA Executive Director
Sydney Olson, AOA Associate Executive Director, Advocacy and Government Relations
Linda Mascheri, Director, AOA Department of State, Affiliate and International Affairs
Nicholas A. Schilligo, MS, Director, AOA Division of State Government Affairs
Amy Bolivar, Manager, Executive Projects and Communications
Jon F. Wills, Executive Director, OOA
Marsha A. Wise, BS, Executive Director, AOCD

³ Elizabeth Fernandez, [Tanning Beds Linked to Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer](http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-non-melanoma-skin-cancer), Oct. 2, 2012, available at <http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-non-melanoma-skin-cancer>.

⁴ See, Jean-Francois Dore and Marie-Christine Chignol, [Tanning Salons and Skin Cancer](#), *Photochem. Photobiol. Sci.* 11, 30-37 (2012).

⁵ Adam Riker, Nicolas Zea, and Tan Trinh, [The Epidemiology, Prevention, and Detection of Melanoma](#), *The Ochsner Journal*, 10:56-65 (2010).

⁶ Dore, et al., *supra*.