

March 5, 2019

The Honorable David Grosso, Chairman
Committee on Education
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chair Grosso:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, our over 2,700 physician members, and the thousands of patients whom they treat each and every day, I am writing to you to express the Medical Society's support for the **School Sunscreen Safety Amendment Act of 2019** (B23-84). Although it is currently oversight and budget planning season, we urge you to schedule a hearing on this legislation as soon as possible.

The issues covered in this bill can best be described as common-sense solutions. Both MSDC and the American Medical Association support the exemption of sunscreen from over-the-counter medication possession bans in schools. We both also encourage all schools to allow students to bring and possess sunscreen without restriction and without requiring physician authorization. The CDC found that only 11 percent of students reported regular or nearly regular use of sunscreen during prolonged periods of regular sun exposure. Teaching healthy behaviors at a young age is critical to reducing the severe negative impacts of unprotected exposure to the sun's damaging rays.

There is no greater good that our government can do than improve the health of our residents. The Medical Society strongly encourages the prompt scheduling of a public hearing and that the bill receives a quick, favorable mark-up and favorable consideration by the full Council. Please don't hesitate to call upon the Medical Society whenever we can be of assistance, especially when it comes to protecting the health and welfare of the District's school children. I can be reached at (202) 466-1800 or hay@msdc.org.

Sincerely,



Robert Hay, Jr.
Executive Vice President