December 10th, 2019

The Honorable Scott Lipps
Chairman, Health Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Health Committee—

On behalf of the 2,900 members of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 329, sponsored by State Representatives Hillyer and Lighbody.

It has been well established that exposure to ultraviolet radiation from tanning increases an individual’s risk of skin cancer. Despite numerous health warnings, studies have shown that approximately 24% of teenagers have visited a tanning facility at least once.

In a 2011 policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that teenagers avoid using tanning beds due to the significant dangers posed by UV radiation exposure. Nationally, AAP has supported legislation to prohibit tanning bed use by teenagers. Passage of HB 329 would bring Ohio in line with 19 states that prohibit the use of tanning beds by teenagers.

There are safe alternatives to tanning as well as moderated, natural sunlight exposure that are far better for teenagers. HB 329 is common sense and in the best interest of Ohio teens.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to child health.

Sincerely,

Melissa Wervey Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics