



Proponent Testimony HB 159  
May 18, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of House Bill 159. My name is Kristin Englund, MD, and I am President of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio (AMCNO).

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), founded in 1824, is the region's professional medical association, and the oldest professional association in Ohio. We are a non-profit 501(c)6 representing physicians and medical students from all the contiguous counties in Northern Ohio.

The mission of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio is to support physicians in being strong advocates for all patients and promote the practice of the highest quality of medicine. I am before you today to urge you to support HB 159, which would ban the use of sun-lamp tanning services to individuals under the age of 18.

The dangers of indoor tanning are well-documented. According to the FDA, the major risk factors for those who choose to use indoor tanning services are:

- Sunburn
- Premature Aging/Photoaging
- Skin Cancer
- Actinic or Solar Keratoses
- Eye Damage
  - Photokeratitis
  - Cataracts
- Immune System Suppression

The potential risks are especially concerning for children and adolescents, who are not equipped to fully understand the risks they are taking and the potential long-term consequences.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that if no one younger than 18 years of age ever used a tanning bed, we could prevent about 61,839 melanomas and 6,735 deaths due to melanoma.

I urge you to support this bill so that we can prevent unnecessary morbidity and mortality caused by skin cancer and other tanning-related conditions in Ohio.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.