



SB 25 Proponent Testimony
Matthew Freado, MBA, PA-C
Immediate Past President and Government Affairs Chair
Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (OAPA)
Senate Health Committee
Chairman Steve Huffman
April 2, 2025

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 25 introduced by Senator Terry Johnson.

The Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (OAPA) is proud to submit our testimony in favor of this important legislation. Senate Bill 25 seeks to prohibit sun lamp tanning for minors under the age of sixteen and establishes important safeguards by requiring parental or legal guardian consent, along with onsite presence, for individuals between the ages of sixteen and eighteen.

The health impact of sun lamp tanning is significant. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, it increases the risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma by 58% and basal cell carcinoma by 24%. The Skin Cancer Foundation notes that using a tanning bed even once before the age of 35 increases the risk of developing melanoma by 75%. And the renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center highlights research indicating that using a tanning bed before the age of 20 can increase the chance of developing melanoma by nearly 50%. These statistics underscore the urgent need for protective measures for young people who are particularly vulnerable to the dangers of sun lamp tanning.

As advocates for the health and well-being of all Ohioans, OAPA represents PAs who work in dermatology, primary care, oncology, and other settings in which they may diagnose and treat skin conditions and cancers. Our members are on the front lines of caring for patients experiencing the devastating long-term effects of UV ray exposure from sun lamp tanning.

Senate Bill 25 will not only contribute to better health outcomes for Ohio's adolescents and young adults, but it will also help reduce the economic burden of treating preventable skin cancers attributable to sun lamp tanning.

We urge this committee to support Senate Bill 25, as it will protect Ohio's youth and ensure a healthier, more prosperous future for our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.