



December 14, 2017

The Honorable Carol Blood
Nebraska Unicameral Legislature
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509
Delivered electronically: cblood@leg.ne.gov

RE: Support for Nebraska Sunblock Bill

Dear Senator Blood:

On behalf of the SUNucate Coalition, which represents multiple medical specialty associations, patient and other groups, we write in strong support of your intention to introduce a Sunblock Bill. We would like these comments to be entered into the public record and applaud your efforts to remove barriers preventing children in Nebraska schools from using over-the-counter sunscreens with parental permission. Statewide policies should allow and encourage students to apply, carry and store sunscreen for personal use.

Broad “medication bans” that are in place in schools across the country require students to have a note or prescription from a physician in order to have these medications. Sunscreens are regulated as over-the-counter drugs under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, making them subject to these bans. Although these policies are meant to protect children, they also hinder them from accessing sunscreen during outdoor school activities and put them at risk of damaging sun exposure. According to a 2016 study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), half of school districts across the country neither require nor recommend policy which allows students to apply sunscreen while at school.ⁱ The CDC believes that these types of school policies create barriers to the use of important sun protection.ⁱⁱ

Additionally, it has been found the use of sunscreen at a young age is a critical and necessary component of skin cancer prevention. The CDC reports that only 11 percent of students reported regular or nearly regular use of sunscreen during prolonged periods of regular sun exposure.ⁱⁱⁱ Furthermore, the American Medical Association has adopted policy to support the exemption of sunscreen from any over-the-counter medication bans in school settings and encourages schools to allow students to possess sunscreen without restriction.

It is in the public’s interest that schools set policies which allow students to possess and apply sunscreen during school. Due to the aforementioned reasons, we ask that the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature to give the Sunblock Bill full consideration. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and if you have any questions, please contact Emily Ninnemann, as

representative to the Coalition, at 847-956-9121 or at eninnemann@asds.net.

Sincerely,

Nebraska Dermatology Society
Nebraska Medical Association
AIM at Melanoma
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
American Medical Association
American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Mohs Surgery
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Enright Melanoma Foundation
IMPACT Melanoma
John Wayne Cancer Foundation
Melanoma Action Coalition
Melanoma International Foundation
National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention
Pediatric Sun Protection Foundation
Personal Care Products Council
Society for Pediatric Dermatology
Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants

ⁱ School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) 2016 ... (n.d.). Retrieved December 12, 2017, from https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/shpps/pdf/shpps-results_2016.pdf.

ⁱⁱ Skin Cancer Prevention Progress Report 2017. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Dept. of Health and Human Service

ⁱⁱⁱ Eaton, D.; et.al; Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 2011. Surveillance Summaries 8 June 2012. 61(SS04); 1-162. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6104a1.htm>