

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess
Chair, Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Burgess and Ranking Member Green:

On behalf of the 27 undersigned organizations dedicated to promoting sun-safe behaviors, we write in support of H. Res. 282 and ask that the Committee on Energy and Commerce support bringing this resolution to the floor for consideration by the end of the Congressional Session. We applaud this common-sense resolution and the efforts of the Rep. Dave Joyce and leaders of the Congressional Skin Cancer Caucus to support the removal of barriers that prevent children in many state and local childcare settings from using over-the-counter sunscreens.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. Current estimates are that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in his or her lifetime. Experiencing five or more blistering sunburns between ages 15 and 20 increases one's melanoma risk by a staggering 80 percent and nonmelanoma skin cancer risk by 68 percent.

Children are particularly at risk for skin damage from ultraviolet (UV) radiation because their skin is not yet fully developed and because their skin cells are dividing at an accelerated pace compared with adults. Increasing intermittent sun exposure in childhood and during one's lifetime is associated with an increased risk of squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma and melanoma. The good news is that research suggests that regular sunscreen use reduces melanoma risk, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

To prevent skin cancer in the future, a change in our culture, including an understanding of what healthy, attractive skin looks like, is needed. All Americans, and especially physicians, public health agencies, and child care professionals, need to work toward that change. The message that the public receives from its visible leaders and elected officials can also play an important role in this effort. The House passage of H. Res. 282 would demonstrate your commitment and the commitment of the U.S. House of Representatives to promote skin cancer prevention and to shift the public understanding of the risks of UV exposure in children.

We appreciate your consideration of this issue and encourage the Committee to ask leadership to schedule floor consideration of H. Res. 282 by the end of the 2018 Congressional Session.

A Cure In Sight
AIM at Melanoma
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Mohs Surgery
American Melanoma Foundation
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation
Colette Coyne Melanoma Awareness Campaign
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Dermatology Nurses Association
IMPACT Melanoma
Jason Farley All in For A Cure Foundation Inc.
Melanoma Research Alliance
Melanoma Research Foundation
Mollie Biggane Melanoma Foundation
Outrun the Sun, Inc.
Peggy Spiegler Melanoma Research Foundation
Personal Care Products Council
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Public Access to SunScreens (PASS) Coalition
Skin Cancer Foundation
Skin of Steel
Society for Pediatric Dermatology
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Sun Safety for Kids
White Aisle Foundation
Women's Dermatologic Society