

April 28, 2015

**To: Senate Health Care Committee**

**From: Ashley Tracy**

**RE: Please Support of HB 3041**

Chair Monnes-Anderson and members of the Committee,

My name is Ashley Tracy and I strongly encourage your support of HB 3041 which will allow children to bring and use sun protection including sunscreen in Oregon's schools. Growing up in the 80's my parents had us out in the sun all the time, as much as possible from what remember. And during all that time I don't recall a single time having them apply sunscreen when we were outside. I remember I would blister so badly and I remember how painful it was but it never stopped us from basking in the sun whenever possible. I then continued to believe as I got older that tanning beds, long tanning sessions in the sun and tanning enhancers like oils would never give someone like me cancer.

Then, 2 years ago almost to this very day, I was diagnosed with Stage 1 Melanoma. It turned my world upside down. At that time my son would be turning a year old shortly after my diagnosis and I just remember thinking, I may not be here to see him grow up. Being a new mother I had a lot of fears and emotions to overcome. In my case, the mole was caught early and removed. I was very fortunate that this was the case. This experience has made me more aware changes on my body and more educated on what to look for. It has also made me more aware than ever before about the consequences of sunburn at a young age and the importance of using sun protection, both sun protective clothing and sunscreen, to protect myself and my children from the serious consequences of melanoma.

My son Parker is now almost 3 and I have another sweet little boy, Conner who is almost 1. My children and other children in Oregon are the #1 reason I am here today. As I look at both of my boys with their blue eyes, light colored hair and fair skin I can't help but truly fear as they grow up that they may have their mother's skin and be vulnerable to developing melanoma. I am here today because it is important that we take any precautions we can to minimize our children's risk of skin cancer.

Our children are in school a significant amount of time during the day and it is so important that they be able to have access to apply and reapply sunscreen and use sun protective clothing. This is a preventable disease and it is important we are all educated about the risks and have the opportunity to protect ourselves and our children.

Please support HB 3041 and allow parents like me to protect my children from the consequences of overexposure while they are at school. Thank you for your time.