

April 28, 2015

To: Senate Health Care Committee

From: Shanrae Hawkins, Melanoma survivor

RE: Please Support HB 3042

Chair Monnes-Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 3041 to provide access to sun protection in Oregon's schools. This legislation would allow students to apply and use nonprescription sunscreen and sun protective clothing during school hours and at school-sponsored activities. It allows school districts the flexibility to adopt rules outlining the type of clothing permitted and protects school personnel from any liability relating to the application of sunscreen. I believe this bill is important to the well-being of Oregon's children.

I was raised on a ranch in the shadows of the Willowa Mountains in Joseph, Oregon. My entire childhood consisted of playing outside in creeks and fields – the perfect playground in which to explore nature and develop an appreciation for sunny, warm days.

I was a healthy, active 35 year old mom and wife when I was diagnosed with Melanoma. A visit to my dermatologist for an annual skin screening changed my life forever. I've often wondered how I ended up with melanoma. Was it was all the summers spent changing irrigation pipe, or the hours on the playground at Joseph school, or was it the time spent outdoors practicing for track and cross country? The answer is yes. It was all of those things, coupled with my fair skin. I didn't know what melanoma was until I was diagnosed. My diagnosis rocked my world. I had no idea young healthy people could be diagnosed with skin cancer. Today I know that more than 40 percent of an individual's lifetime UV exposure occurs within the first 20 years of life.

I have two young children, Grayson is a 7 year old first grader at Tumalo Elementary and Brogan is an active 21 month old, and I want do everything I can to protect them from being diagnosed with melanoma. A person receives nearly a quarter of their lifetime UV exposure by age 18. Skin cancer prevention measures are necessary for long-term health. By exempting nonprescription sunscreen from the definition of "medication", HB 3041 will ensure that students are able to use sunscreen and sun protective clothing during school hours to protect themselves from over-exposure to UV radiation and skin cancer.

There is no cost associated with HB 3041. It is the right thing to do for my children and all the children of Oregon. Thank you for supporting this bill. If it passes, Oregon will be doing something proactive to change Oregon from having the 5th highest incidence rate of melanoma – and the 4th highest death rate from melanoma – in the country.

Sincerely,



ShanRae Hawkins
Melanoma Survivor and Advocate