



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Monnes-Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Senator Kruse, Co-chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Courtni Dresser, OMA Government Relations

Date: April 29, 2015

Re: Support for HB 3041

House Bill 3041 allows schools to implement policies that allow students to use sun-protective clothing and sunscreen without a prescription. The OMA supports preventative measures such as the application of sunscreen and protective clothing to prevent skin cancer, especially in children.

Historically, OMA has supported measures that reduce the risk of developing cancer, such as banning tanning beds for minors. This bill, in a similar fashion, has the potential to reduce a child's exposure to harmful ultraviolet rays emitted by the sun through the wearing of protective clothes and/or sunscreen which in turn reduces the risk of melanoma, sunburn and premature aging. Children are especially susceptible, as it is known that a substantial proportion of their UV exposure occurs prior to the age of 18, often where they spend the majority of their formative years, school.

Granting schools the flexibility to develop school policies that allow for the application of sunscreen without a prescription and wearing protective clothing for their students is a practical step forward in protecting excess sun exposure that teaches students the importance of cancer prevention behaviors.

We urge your support for HB 3041.

The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,200 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.

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