



February 1, 2018

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Delivered electronically: [anne.kaiser@house.state.md.us](mailto:anne.kaiser@house.state.md.us)

**RE: HB 427 – Public Schools – Sunscreen Use - Policy**

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser:

On behalf of the SUNucate Coalition, which represents multiple medical specialty associations, patient and other groups, we write in strong support of HB 427 and applaud the efforts to remove barriers preventing children in Maryland schools from using over-the-counter sunscreen. 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 puts 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.<sup>i</sup> The CDC believes that these types of school policies create barriers to the use of important sun protection.<sup>ii</sup>

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.<sup>iii</sup> 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 interest that schools set policies which allow students to possess and apply sunscreen during school. Due to the aforementioned reasons, we ask that HB 427 be considered for passage by the House Ways and Means Committee for full consideration by the

House. Should you have any questions, please contact Emily Ninnemann, ASDSA Manager of Advocacy and Practice Affairs, at 847-956-9121 or at [eninnemann@asds.net](mailto:eninnemann@asds.net).

Sincerely,

Maryland Dermatologic Society  
AIM at Melanoma  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer  
American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for 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 Behavioral Medicine  
Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants

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<sup>i</sup> School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) 2016 ... (n.d.). Retrieved December 12, 2017, from [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/shpps/pdf/shpps-results\\_2016.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/shpps/pdf/shpps-results_2016.pdf).

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

<sup>iii</sup> 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>