



March 20, 2019

Senator Julie Rosen
Minnesota Senate Building
95 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Senator Rosen:

The Minnesota Medical Association is the professional association of physicians, residents, and medical students. On behalf of the MMA's 10,000 members, I am pleased to offer the physician community's support of SF 629, your bill to allow students to possess and apply sunscreen products during the school day and at school-related events.

Exposure to the sun without sunscreen in youth is a significant health risk; even just a few serious sunburns in childhood can dramatically raise the risk of skin cancer in the future. Each year nearly five million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the United States. Melanoma, a very dangerous type of skin cancer, is estimated to cause more than 7,400 deaths in 2019. Damage from sun exposure is cumulative and builds over time, so protection from an early age is critical.

Cancer prevention should start early, and instilling in young people good habits as it relates to the use of sunscreen is a terrific way to prevent countless instances of skin cancer and other sun-related skin damage. Removing barriers to the use of sunscreen in schools is a common-sense measure to promote good health.

On behalf of the physician community, thank you for your authorship of this important health measure. The MMA strongly supports SF 629 and we urge its passage.

Sincerely,

Doug Wood
Minnesota Medical Association