2025-22

RESOLUTION

Subject: Sun-safe Behavior in School-Aged Children

Submitted by: Alicia Fields and Jacqueline Leon (Medical Student Section)

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation is a well-established risk factor for skin cancer[1]; and

WHEREAS, rates of skin cancer are increasing in young adults, with sunburns during childhood or adolescence increasing the odds of developing skin cancer later in life[2,3]; and

WHEREAS, sunscreen use is limited in school settings as it is classified as an over-the-counter drug product regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration[1]; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has above average UV levels measured in erythemally-weighted daily dose[1]; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has higher rates of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, than Texas, California, Arizona, and Florida at a rate of 28.2 cases per 100,000 people annually[4]; and

WHEREAS, 29 states and Washington D.C. have legislation which allows children access to sunscreen in schools[5]; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky currently does not have legislation regarding sunscreen use in schools[5]; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Dermatology Association supports state-wide policies that allow students to use sunscreen and sun protective clothing during the school day without physician authorization[6]; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association Policy H-440.841 titled “Permitting Sunscreen in Schools” encourages schools to allow unrestricted access to sunscreen without requiring physician authorization[7]; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA advocates for passage of state legislation that allows students to have UV protection at school, including personal sunscreen without a prescription or physician’s note.

References:

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2. Dennis, Leslie K. et al. “Sunburns and Risk of Cutaneous Melanoma, Does Age Matter: A Comprehensive Meta-Analysis.” Annals of epidemiology 18.8 (2008): 614–627.
3. Watts CG, Drummond M, Goumas C, et al. Sunscreen Use and Melanoma Risk Among Young Australian Adults. JAMA Dermatol. 2018;154(9):1001-1009. doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2018.1774
4. National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Kentucky—Quick Profiles. State Cancer Profiles. Updated June 30, 2025. Accessed July 1, 2025. https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/quick-profiles/index.php?tabSelected=2&statename=kentucky
5. American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association. New Jersey becomes 30th jurisdiction to implement ASDSA’s SUNucate legislation. Published April 1, 2025. Accessed July 1, 2025. https://www.asds.net/skin-experts/news-room/press-releases/new-jersey-becomes-30th-jurisdiction-to-implement-asdsas-sunucate-legislation
6. American Academy of Dermatology Association. Access to Sunscreen and Sun-Protective Clothing Policy Statement. Accessed July 1, 2025. https://server.aad.org/forms/policies/Uploads/PS/PS-Access%20to%20Sunscreen_Sun%20Protective%20Clothing.pdf
7. American Medical Association. Permitting Sunscreen in Schools H-440.841. AMA PolicyFinder. Accessed July 1, 2025. https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/sunscreen?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-3857.xml