



January 19, 2026

Senator Ruth Ward
Chair, Committee on Education
107 North Main Street Room 302
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Support NH SB 432 – An Act authorizing the application of sunscreen in schools and camps without a doctor's note or prescription and establishing a skin cancer prevention education program.

Dear Chairperson Ward and Members of the Committee on Education:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the SUNucate Coalition, which represents multiple medical specialty associations, patient and other groups, we write in strong support of SB 432, which would allow students to possess and use a topical sunscreen while on school property or at a school-related event or activity or at recreation camps without a physician's note or prescription.

This legislation additionally allows for outdoor use articles of sun-protective clothing, including, but not limited to, hats and sunglasses and establishes a skin cancer prevention education program. This common-sense legislation will promote lifelong sun-safe habits and help ensure our children are protected from the most preventable risk factor for skin cancer – overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays.

Sunscreens are regulated as over-the-counter drugs under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, making them subject to broad reaching “medication bans” that impact access in school settings. Currently, schools in New Hampshire as a result of these bans require a prescription from a physician in order for students to use sunscreen. Although these policies are meant to protect children, they also hinder them from accessing sunscreen and create unnecessary barriers that discourage sun protection during times when students are at greatest risk for sunburn and sun exposure, such as recess, field trips, and sport events and practices.

Regular sunscreen use during childhood is a critical and necessary component of skin cancer prevention. Additionally, seeking shade and wearing protective clothing are key steps in preventing skin cancer. On average, a person's risk for melanoma doubles if they have had more than five sunburns, but just one blistering sunburn in childhood or adolescence more than doubles a person's chances of developing melanoma later in life. Even without a burn, sun exposure raises cancer risk.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the U.S.ⁱ and one in five Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70.ⁱⁱ However, the CDC reports that only 10 percent of students regularly use or nearly regularly use sunscreen during prolonged periods of regular sun exposure.ⁱⁱⁱ

The CDC believes that school policies that prohibit student possession of sunscreen and sun-protective clothing can create barriers to the use of important sun protection.^{iv} Removing or banning products that have shown over the course of time to be safe and effective against sunburn puts children at risk during everyday school activities.

Studies in Australia, which has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world,^v have shown that sun-protective clothing, including hats,^{vi} are one of the best barriers between skin and the sun. An Australian study of school-sun protection policies found that a comprehensive sun-protective clothing, is an essential part of developing sun-safe behaviors in school communities.^{vii}

By passing this important legislation, New Hampshire will join 29 other states and the District of Columbia in taking this necessary and overdue step to empower students to properly protect their skin and allow them to safely enjoy the outdoors without making their parents jump through bureaucratic hoops. The bill works to create a consistent state policy that ensures children have access to FDA-approved sunscreen at school for over-the-counter use—at no cost to the state. Schools should be places where the health of our children is prioritized, and removing excessive restrictions on sunscreen use is a vital part of that effort.

It is in the public interest that schools set policies which allow students to possess and apply sunscreen during school and camps, allow sun-protective clothing and implement sun safe education. For these reasons, we ask that you support SB 432. Should you have any questions, please contact Kristin Hellquist, ASDSA Chief Advocacy Officer, at khellquist@asds.net.

Sincerely,

AIM at Melanoma Foundation
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American College of Surgeons
American Medical Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Mohs Surgery
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
Colette Coyne Melanoma Awareness Campaign
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Florida Academy of Dermatology
IMPACT Melanoma

Massachusetts Association of Dermatology
Melanoma Research Alliance
New Hampshire Medical Society
Personal Care Products Council
Rhode Island Dermatology Society
Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants
The Skin Cancer Foundation

ⁱ US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Melanoma of the Skin Statistics. <https://www.cdc.gov/skin-cancer/statistics/>.

ⁱⁱ The Skin Cancer Foundation. Facts About Sunburn and Skin Cancer. <https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/skin-cancer-facts/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Kann, L; Kinchen, S, Shanklin, S; et.al; Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 2013. MMWR 2014;63(SS04):41.

^{iv} Skin Cancer Prevention Progress Report 2017. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Dept. of Health and Human Services.

^v SunSmart. *Skin cancer*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 16, 2024, from <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/skin-cancer>

^{vi} Gies P, Javorniczky J, Roy C, Henderson S. Measurements of the UVR protection provided by hats used at school. *Photochem Photobiol* 2006 May;82(3):750-4.

^{vii} Turner D et. al; School sun-protection policies—does being SunSmart make a difference?. *Health Educ Res* 2014; 29 (3): 367-377. doi: 10.1093/her/cyu010