January 2019

The Honorable Teri Johnson

Mayor

Key West City Hall

1300 White Street

Key West, Florida 33040

Sent electronically to tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov

RE: Key West proposed ordinance 18-3253 (banning certain sunscreen ingredients)

Dear Mayor Johnston,

It has come to my attention that the Key West Commission is considering a ban of certain sunscreen ingredients. As a physician who diagnoses and treats skin cancers, I am concerned that the sunscreen ingredients in question (i.e., oxybenzone and/or octinoxate) have been approved as safe and effective by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Further, I am very concerned that any entity other than the FDA would restrict access to a product by requiring a prescription for a federally-approved over-the-counter product.

I urge you and the commission to consider the impact of limiting access to FDA-approved sunscreen products, especially when there are few approved ingredients that provide broad spectrum protection against UVA and UVB radiation. Access to approved sunscreens is important as the primary cause of skin cancer is exposure to the ultraviolet (UV) light which damages the DNA with repeated exposure. People with chronic exposure to UV light are at increased risk of developing skin cancer.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. I hope the commission will consider the long-term impact of limiting access to approved sunscreen products.

Sincerely,

John Doe, M.D.

123 Street Address

City, State Zip