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BILL: House Bill 427  
TITLE: Public Schools – Student Sunscreen Use  
DATE: February 8, 2018  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means  
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House Bill 427 requires each county board of education to adopt a certain written policy to authorize a student to possess and use sunscreen on school property or at a school-sponsored activity without written permission from a health care provider; requires a certain policy to allow certain public school employees to apply or assist a student in applying sunscreen under certain circumstances; providing that a student may only use sunscreen provided by the student's parent or guardian; etc.

PSSAM appreciates the intent of this bill. However, we must **oppose** House Bill 427.

Successful teaching and learning must remain the primary focus of teachers. Teachers want all students to succeed and are well prepared to recognize basic education needs in their students. While we understand the seriousness of overexposure to the sun and support the concept of keeping students safe from harm, we believe that House Bill 427 is an unnecessary piece of legislation.

PSSAM earnestly believes that if a parent/guardian is concerned about overexposure to sun for the student during the school day, it should be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to apply sunscreen before the student comes to school. In addition, many students carry sunscreen in their backpacks. It is perfectly acceptable practice for a student to apply sunscreen if needed. Teachers and aides have been known to informally help our youngest students with the task if necessary. Furthermore, due to the strong focus on student academics, children are not outside the school building for extended periods of time. Finally, we feel that creating a school system policy to address this issue would put yet another burden on our dedicated and hard-working teachers who are already handling numerous other educational responsibilities.

PSSAM respectfully **opposes** House Bill 427 and requests an unfavorable committee report.