

Dear Jessica,

I am hopeful that you will share my comment with the State Board of Education this morning at their meeting.

On behalf of the Oral Health Funders Collaborative that includes The Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, The Ford Family Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Northwest Health Foundation, Providence Health & Services, Samaritan Health Services, Oregon Dental Association, Cambia Health Foundation and MODA Health, I urge the Board of Education to require school administrators to collect and share surveillance data that includes the results of the dental screenings.

The results of the screenings are an important indicator of health for the children in Oregon and will assist community-based programs that many of us fund in reaching children with urgent needs before it is too late.

Dental disease is a hidden epidemic in our state. Anecdotally, it is one of the main reasons elementary school students are absent from school. We as grantmakers have come together to prevent this disease and we respectfully request your assistance in collecting and sharing the results of the screenings as part of this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Melissa

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