

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Bruun, Cannon, Dembrow, Garrett, Harker, Kotek, Maurer, Thompson, Greenlick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Kennemer
Prepared By:	Roxie Cuellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/13, 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Contingent upon available funds, requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to adopt rules to distribute funds to school districts to provide preventative oral health care to students. DHS may provide funds to train school administrators on techniques of fluoride varnish applications, reimbursement of cost of employing or contracting with limited access permit dental hygienist or other qualified health professional to provide preventative oral health care to students, and appropriate medications. Establishes Oregon Health Care Fund, distinct from general fund. Permits DHS to accept moneys from public or private sources to implement the program. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Age at which fluoride treatments are most effective
- Other types of preventative oral treatment for elementary students
- Relative low cost compared to other treatments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the original bill.

BACKGROUND: Research has shown that application of fluoride varnishes to children's teeth is a cost-effect, preventive approach to reducing tooth-decay in children. A study found that children receiving no fluoride varnish were more than twice as likely to have dental cavities as those who had annual varnish treatments, and nearly four times as likely to have cavities than children who received fluoride varnish at six-month intervals. Professionally applied fluoride varnishes were first developed in the 1960s, and have been in use for over 30 years. The American Dentistry Association considers fluoride varnish to be safe and efficacious as part of a cavities-prevention program that includes cavity diagnosis, risk assessment, and regular dental care. The federal Food and Drug Administration has cleared these products as medical devices to be used as cavity liners and for the treatment of hypersensitive teeth.