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From: Joannah Vaughan [<mailto:vaughajo@ohsu.edu>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 10:00 AM

To: Berkobien Rick

Cc: Joannah Vaughan

Subject: House Education Committee hearing on HB 3000, March 27, 2013

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Joannah Vaughan and in 2003, I started and manage the Elks Children's Eye Clinic Vision Screening program. For the last decade, The focus of our program has been on the preschool population (age 3-5) because it is the best time to detect and treat eye disease in children. In order to screen the most vulnerable children in Oregon, I have partnered with the Oregon Head Starts. I receive funding for the program from the Oregon State Elks who provide vision screening kits and volunteer support. Casey Eye Institute at OHSU provides technical expertise and oversight. Together we screen approximately 5,000 children a year throughout the state. Children who do not pass the screening are referred to their local eye doctor. With the consent of the parents, we track the screening results and follow up on the referrals. We provide extensive follow-up because many parents do not understand that there is a short window of opportunity to treat amblyopia (an eye disease in which the child is not using both eyes due to a visual problem such as blockage, refractive error, or crossed eyes. Untreated amblyopia can lead to permanent vision loss.

1. Based on data from over 23,000 screenings: I have found that 14% of Oregon's preschool children will have an abnormal eye exam that will require treatment such as eye glasses.
2. An effective screening should be fast, inexpensive and provide immediate screening results. Given the correct tools and training, I have found lay vision screenings can meet these screening objectives. I believe that screenings should occur multiple times while a child's visual system is developing.