

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****House Committee On Health Care****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/15/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways  
And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 03/20, 04/15**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Buehler, Clem, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse, Weidner

**Prepared By:** Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Department of Education to develop and implement a pilot program to provide services relating to oral health education, the use of fluoride varnish and daily brushing and flossing for children.

Directs OHA to develop a process for parent or legal guardian to have the option to opt out of all or part of the program.

Allows OHA to determine the number of participants in order to determine the cost if the program is implemented statewide.

Sunsets on the convening of the 2019 regular Legislative Assembly. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Benefits of pilot project and data collection
- City Club of Portland recent study
- Need to identify barriers to fluoride varnish in school-based models
- Potential for developing statewide infrastructure
- Impacts of dental disease on children
- Proposed amendment

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Directs OHA to develop a process for parent or legal guardian to have the option to opt out of all or part of the program. Allows OHA to determine the number of participants in order to determine the cost if the program is implemented statewide. Changes program implementation date from 2016-17 school year to 2017-18 school year. Sunsets pilot program on the convening date of 2019 regular session.

**BACKGROUND:**

Fluoride varnish is a topical fluoride used to prevent tooth decay. The varnish is painted onto the front and back, top and bottom of the teeth with a small brush. The varnish forms a sticky covering over the tooth and becomes hard as soon as saliva touches it. The American Dental Association states that flossing in children should begin as soon as two teeth are touching.