

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Health Care****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/20/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference
(Printed A-Eng).**Meeting Dates:** 03/16, 04/15, 04/20**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to use evidence-based and best practices to ensure availability of dental sealant programs to students. Requires provision of dental sealants to students in elementary or middle schools in which at least 40 percent are eligible to receive assistance under the Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program. Directs OHA to directly provide and oversee services provided by local dental sealant programs. Directs OHA to adopt rules and procedures for local dental sealant programs certification, training and monitoring and collecting data. Permits plan to transition schools receiving services from OHA to local dental sealants programs. Requires integration of data sets. Appropriates funds for biennium beginning July 1, 2015. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Tooth decay as significant public health problem
- Children benefit from dental sealants because the sealant protects teeth from fissure and decay
- Role of Oregon's Oral Health Program
- Limited funding and resources to implement current dental programs in schools
- Ability to reach children that qualify for free and reduced lunch

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure but maintains appropriation.

BACKGROUND:

Oral health is vital for sustaining overall health, getting good nutrition and communicating with others. Oral disease often brings disabling pain which can worsen heart and respiratory conditions and auto-immune diseases. One study in Oregon found that dental pain is a more frequent cause of emergency room visits than headache, fever and asthma. Racial, economic and geographic factors influence access to timely prevention and treatment. Dental sealants are a way to protect from tooth decay.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) conducted a survey in 2012 of school-aged children's oral health. Results show that oral disease disparities exist. Children from lower-income households had higher cavity rates compared to children from higher-income households (63 percent versus 38 percent), almost twice the rate of untreated tooth decay (25 percent versus 13 percent) and more than twice the rate of rampant tooth decay (19 percent versus 8 percent). In addition, about 24,000 children age six to nine were in need of early or urgent dental care. Up to 3,800 children in 1st to 3rd grades in Oregon reported dental pain or infection on any given day.