



Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

For the record I am Dr. Mike Shirtcliff, a dentist and CEO of Advantage Dental based in Redmond. I am here to testify in favor of HB 3181 and particularly the -1 amendments. It is difficult to fix a problem that you don't know exists. Dental screening is a simple, efficient way to identify problems so we can notify parents that their children have oral health concerns.

Early identification of oral health problems will reduce costs, avoid disruption of students and reduce painful and needless procedures.

We have made huge progress by screening children who are entering elementary school. It is the older kids that are often missed. The -1 amendments are intended to provide an "opt out" mechanism or "passive consent." Parents would be notified two weeks before a screening and could choose to exclude their children from this process.

I believe this simple change from our current "opt in" system will enhance oral health for Oregon's children between ages seven and 14.

Thank you for your consideration would be happy to answer any questions.



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