

*Testimony submitted via email.*

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, for the record my name is Jim Bunn. I represent Advantage Dental based in Redmond.

I am here to testify in support of House Bill 3353. This bill is relatively simple in that it changes our current system from "opt in" to "opt out" or passive consent for school screenings when an entire class is to be screened.

The – 1 amendments are a complete rewrite of the original bill. Unfortunately late in to the hopper meant late out of the hopper on the LC draft. There was no time to rework the language before the bill was introduced thus necessitating a complete rewrite.

The original intent and the specific language of the – 1 simply allow a school district that is screening an entire class to provide a written notice, with an opportunity for parents to decline the dental screening.

Today, schools must send the notice and parents must return an affirmative response or their children miss the screening. Too often the kids are missing the screenings. This bill doesn't cover 100% but 99% would be great progress. If the school wanted to do a screening on one student or a small group of students they would still have to use today's process of sending out screening packets and hoping parents return them.

HB3353 is a small change that can have a big impact.

I would be happy to answer any questions.