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Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Education

Legacy Health supports SB 187, which would provide a \$3 million appropriation for the Department of Education to reimburse education providers for expenses incurred from vision screenings.

Legacy Health is a nonprofit health system serving Oregon and SW Washington with seven hospitals and over 119 clinics, including the Legacy Devers Eye Institute.

Because early identification and treatment of vision issues is proven to improve student outcomes, including affecting high school graduation rates, the Oregon Legislature passed legislation in 2013 mandating that Oregon students receive a vision screening or eye exam prior to starting school.

At the time of passage, it was envisioned that eye exams would be available through a collaboration between schools, the state and private non-profit organizations.

Oregon non-profits have provided free vision screening to approximately 180,000 Oregon students in the school setting without any state funds, despite an Oregon Department of Education report in December 2013, recommending a significant state expenditure on the vision screening program.

The non-profits alone supporting the program long-term is unsustainable and a drain on these organizations' resources. The funding provided in SB 187 will allow the successful Oregon school vision screening program to continue through the partnership and collaboration originally envisioned.

Legacy Health urges your support of SB 187.

Sincerely,

Jim Rosenbaum, MD  
Chief of Ophthalmology  
Legacy Devers Eye Institute