

Supporting testimony

For

SB 187

1. I would like to encourage the Honorable Senators to support SB 187
2. SB 187 is a follow-up to HB 3000, which was passed by the legislature in 2013. That bill (enacted as ORS 336.211) requires all Oregon students to provide proof that the student has received a vision screening or eye exam prior to starting school. HB 3000 was passed as an unfunded mandate.
3. A complete eye exam by a licensed eye care physician is the optimum. However, it is also the most expensive to the parent, the patient's insurance or to the State of Oregon through the Oregon Health Plan, whoever the payer is.
4. Private non-profit organizations in Oregon have provided the vision screening required at no reimbursement. Grants and other fund raising have helped pay for the programs. Private funders are reticent to provide ongoing funding.
5. I am most familiar with the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation program, since I was a trustee when the program was initiated. We received grants for equipment, materials and supplies. Manpower was primarily volunteer. The volunteers are still willing. However, we cannot afford to continue to replace the equipment while at the same time continuing our sight and hearing mission to all residents of Oregon.

6. Again, I would encourage you to pass SB 187 to insure that all students in Oregon schools receive at least the minimum vision screening prescribed by the Oregon Legislature.