

OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

February 3rd, 2020
House Education Committee
CLHO Supports HB 4127

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) represents the 33 local public health authorities throughout Oregon who work to protect the public's health by preventing the spread of disease and promoting health. The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials supports HB 4127, which is a smart first step to ensuring that all children in Oregon have access to preventative oral health services.

According to the 2017 Oregon SMILE survey data 49 percent of 6-9 year olds had a cavity and 19 percent of those were untreated. Access to preventative dental health screenings, varnish and sealants are essential to preventing cavities. Schools can provide an amazing location to ensure coordination with dental health to access the preventative services necessary to prevent cavities.

HB 4127 would:

1. Update oral health into health curricula for schools;
2. Establish, maintain and apply for funding to support a Community Dental Health Coordinating Pilot Program
3. Allow Coordinated Care Organizations to continue their coordination.

Local public health officials understand that oral health is essential to overall health. The establishment of the Community Dental Health Coordinating pilot program would allow dental health coordinators to be placed in non-profits or local public health authorities (or county health departments). CLHO appreciated that acknowledgement that local public health authorities may play a supportive role in rolling this out throughout Oregon.

Please support HB 4127.

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