

Good Afternoon co-chairs Frederick and McLain and the members of the committee.

My name is Tish Hora and I am a Nationally Certified School Nurse currently working for the Bend-La Pine School District. Prior to this year, I worked in the St. Helens School District for 13 years.

During my time at St. Helens School District, I planned and scheduled vision screenings for all of the K-6th grade students, approximately 1,100 students each year. Prior to the Oregon Lion's Sight and Hearing Foundation (OLSHF) use of the SPOT photo-vision screener technology it would take 2 full days, and many volunteers per building to manually screen each student in K-6th grade in the St. Helens School District and the results were very easily manipulated by students.

Once we began using the SPOT photo-vision screener, the screenings became more time efficient, allowing us to screen our entire building's student population in less than four hours (approximately one class of 30 students in 5-7 minutes). Reducing the time students are out of class for screenings, allows more time in class for learning. With the technology of the photo-vision screener taking measurements inside the eye the accuracy of the screening is extremely reliable, and students aren't able to manipulate the results. I am able to confidently contact a parent or guardian in just a few days after receiving the detailed report from OLSHF and recommend follow up by an ophthalmologist.

With the resources available for follow-up by OLSHF I can offer needed service to any student who needs them. Including vouchers for eye exams and glasses through local providers. This allows families to receive needed services.

As a school nurse, working with children and staff, the importance of vision screenings in schools is irreplaceable. We frequently "discover" why a student is having trouble reading after vision screens. If you have vision issues it could lead to reading difficulties, behavior issues or cause the student to withdrawal. Frequently students don't realize they have a vision problem until it is corrected. Once it is corrected the amazement, excitement and acceleration of their education is incredible.

The high-quality SPOT photo-vision screenings and follow-up resources provided by OLSHF have positively affected the lives and education of many students in the St. Helens School District. With the appropriate funding, I believe they will continue to provide the best possible vision screenings to all K-12 grade students throughout the state of Oregon. Please support SB 5513.

Tish Hora, BSN, RN, NCSN
Bend-La Pine School District
(office) 541-355-6933
(Cell) 503-913-8549