

Friday, January 14, 2011

Exhibit No. 6Date 1/14/2011Bill No. SB 2

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Amber Winkler. I am a teacher and I support SB2, Sealants for Montana Kids. During the years that I have been a teacher, I have seen the negative effects of poor dental hygiene. Many children suffer from cavities and tooth decay. Sealants provide preventative dental care and prevention is one of the best solutions to reducing cavities and tooth decay. Recently the students at the school I teach were given a brief dental screening. I was extremely surprised to discover the low percentage of students who had sealants. Whatever the reason, our children are not getting the appropriate preventative dental care.

In thirty-nine out of the fifty states, dental hygienists are the primary providers in school-based programs. I was shocked to hear that Montana is one of the eleven states not included. As a parent, a teacher, and a member of our community, I cannot think of any reason to not pass SB2. The passing of this bill adds no extra cost to our state, keeps students in school, reduces the amount of time parents must take off work for dentist appointments, and will give all children access to preventative dental health care. It is **our** responsibility to promote good health practices for our children in Montana. Please vote to pass SB2 - Sealants for Montana Kids. SB2 can only positively impact the lives of our children. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Amber Winkler

Warren Elementary

Helena, Montana