

Exhibit No. 13Date 1/14/11Bill No. SB2

Montana Dental Hygienists' Association
SB2 Proponent Testimony
January 14, 2011

Chairperson Murphy and Committee members, my name is Lorrie Merrick and I am a dental hygienist here today on behalf of the Montana Dental Hygienists' Association as a proponent of SB2.

I would like to tell the committee that we are prepared to provide sealants in school settings. We have used the language, guidelines, and information published by the ADA (American Dental Association), CDC (Center for Disease Control), and the ASTDD (Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors) to develop a manual draft to serve as an informational workbook for any Limited Access Dental Hygienist who is interested in providing sealants for children in a school setting and wishes to use this manual as a stepping stone for implementing this service in schools. As I have noted this manual is in draft form and can be tailored to reflect any program that meets the guidelines and rules that will regulate this service to schools aged children. The ADA, CDC and the ASTDD guidelines and information are the gold standard for sealants provided in school based settings. Thank you for your time, please support SB2.

Sincerely,



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Chairperson Murphy and Committee members, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you about the value of SB2 to Montana children. My name is Lorrie Merrick, I have a B.A. in Dental Hygiene and a MS in Dental Hygiene with an emphasis in public health, and I am here today representing the Montana Dental Hygienists Association as a proponent of this bill.

Today the bulk of my discussion will focus on Implementing Sealants in a School Based Setting. Gaining community and school support is an important component in the success of sealants in a school based setting. The first activity of the dental hygienist providing the sealants is to provide support and meet with state agencies involved in writing guidelines and rules for this bill. Next it is important to identify individuals within the school community that would be willing to learn about the program and help support it. These individuals would include: School Superintendent, Principal, School Nurse, teachers, counselors, and supportive personnel who work directly with the school or school district. Also, it is important to identify people who work outside the school with children ie: health professionals and families who may be interested in supporting the program, learning about it, and possibly volunteering with the program.

Once the program is approved, it is important to have a meeting with the superintendent, or principal, or both to gain acceptance for the sealant service in each school. After approval from the school administrators arrange a meeting at each school with the principal, teachers, school nurse, and other staff to present and educate them about the program and develop a working relationship with them to ensure the success of the program. This meeting will allow the dental hygienist to map out a plan with the school staff so that the children and the teachers of the children targeted to receive sealants in 2nd and 6th grade have the least amount of disruption to their school day when they are having the sealants placed. This meeting will also determine what area of the school or space will be allocated for placement of the sealants, how many volunteers will be helping escort the children to and from classrooms, and any questions school staff may have for the dental hygienist. Permission slips will be distributed to the children to be taken home, signed by their parents and returned.

Once the permission slips are gathered the children in the 2nd and 6th grade will have their teeth visually assessed and a decision will be made by the dental hygienist as to which 1st molars (in 2nd graders) and 2nd molars (in 6th graders) will be sealed. Since these molars are the most important teeth to seal (due to the depth of the pit and fissures in the tooth on the chewing surface) they will be done first. If time allows the bicuspid may be sealed in the 6th graders. We estimate that we can see between 12-15 students per day. Each dental hygienist will be responsible for collecting permission slips, setting up the sealant area, cleaning up the sealant area, and recording data on each student

that receives a sealant or sealants. After the sealants are placed the child will be sent home with a follow-up referral sheet recommending that they continue to be seen on a regular basis by their dentist. If a child does not have a dentist a list of dentists or a contact phone number such as the Montana Dental Association will be provided with the phone numbers of the appropriate contacts, again encouraging the parents of each child to access dental care for their child.

In order to have a complete and comprehensive sealant service, and to collect accurate data; it is important to follow-up with the 2nd grade children when they reach 3rd grade and the 6th grade children when they reach 7th grade. These children will be reassessed to ensure that the sealants that were placed are intact and that data recorded. If the sealants have come off of the teeth previously sealed in the school, arrangements will be made to reseat that tooth a no charge. After this visit a sheet will be sent home with each child, again encouraging regular dental visits with their established dentists or referral options for those that do not have a dentist. This type of comprehensive treatment including follow-up care does 2 important things:

- Access to important preventive care to children who would not otherwise receive it.
- An opportunity for several referral reminders, and actually a referral service for children and their parents to seek routine dental care.

Thank you for your time and commitment for a better Montana, please support SB2.

Respectfully submitted,



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