



January 22, 2020

The Honorable Gayle Manning
Chair, Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee
77 South High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairwoman Manning,

On behalf of Delta Dental of Ohio, thank you for the opportunity to offer written proponent testimony on House Bill 360, legislation sponsored by Representatives Crawley and Hill that would facilitate the placement of water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains in certain public school buildings.

Providing access to drinking water throughout the school day gives students a healthy alternative to sugary drinks like soda pop, sports drinks, and juice drinks. People living in the United States consume about 34 pounds of added sugar every year from sugary drinks. According to the American Heart Association, sugary drinks are the number one source of added sugars in our diet. Drinking plenty of water can help combat obesity, increase energy levels, improve students' cognitive functions, and contribute to good oral health.

As part of its "Rethink Your Drink: Water's Cool at School" program, the Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) provided \$200,000 in funding to 54 schools from more than 40 cities in Ohio to equip those schools with new water fountain/bottle filling stations and provide reusable water bottles for all students and staff to help encourage students to drink more water during the day. Within the first month of the Water's Cool at School program, students increased their water consumption and saved more than 2,200 empty water bottles from going into a landfill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for House Bill 360. Delta Dental of Ohio looks forward to working with you and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee to improve the oral and overall health of Ohio's school students.

Sincerely,



Erika Cybulskis