

62nd House District

Warren County

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center

77 S. High Street

13th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111



Committees

Vice Chair of Ways and Means

Finance

Finance Subcommittee on Health
and Human Services

Health

Scott Lipps
State Representative
Sponsor Testimony HB 203

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 203. HB 203 will make the services provided by Mobile Dental Facilities more effective in order to allow greater access to proper oral health care.

Dental care is the number one unmet health care need in Ohio, and mobile dental facilities (MDF) provide access to uninsured or underinsured families and children so that they can have proper access to oral health care. Children from families of lower incomes, or whose parents do not have dental insurance, and individuals covered by Medicaid are less likely to have received dental care compared to other populations. Comparatively, 90% of children with private insurance have had a recent visit to the dentist. Mobile facilities are able to fill in this gap of care by serving these communities.

This legislation will allow the medical records of an MDF patient to transfer to a dental office so that those MDF patients can receive more effective and efficient follow up services. As it currently stands, these records do not follow the patient. If the individual seeks follow up services at a dentists' office, x-rays or other evaluations will need to be repeated since that dentist doesn't have access to the initial evaluation from the MDF. This often results in out-of-pocket expenses for the patient.

Following services, the bill requires that the MDF provide the patient with;

1. A list of dental services provided to the patients
2. Any recommendations regarding further dental services

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3. A notice to the patient that the facility must provide access to the patient's complete dental records

Additionally, this legislation will establish a greater framework for a statewide MDF database. There is currently no means to know which mobile dental facilities are operating throughout the state, or which dentists are associated with those MDF's. The bill requires that MDF operators register with the state dental board. Currently, 14 other states have some regulation on mobile dental facilities. Ultimately, the bill will provide enhanced access to dental care for Ohioans, and make it easier and more cost efficient for them to maintain proper oral health.

Chairman Merrin and the rest of the House Health committee, I appreciate this opportunity to give sponsor testimony on HB 203 and will gladly answer any questions at this time.