

June 18, 2019

The Honorable Derek Merrin, Chair
House Health Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Merrin,

On behalf of Delta Dental of Ohio, thank you for the opportunity to offer written proponent testimony on House Bill 203, legislation sponsored by Representative Lipps that sets forth requirements for mobile dental facility operators.

Mobile dental facilities are an important tool in ensuring transportation barriers and other access to dental care issues are addressed. The use of mobile dental facilities to provide care to students while at school reduces the amount of time children miss class and parents miss work. Mobile dental facilities often provide care to underserved populations, which is a key focus of the work of the Delta Dental Foundation.

In recognition of the importance of the service provided by mobile dental facilities, since 2008, the Delta Dental Foundation has provided \$984,000 in funding for the Ohio State University College of Dentistry's Dental Health Outreach Mobile Experience (H.O.M.E.) Coach, a pediatric mobile dental clinic that travels to Columbus City Schools to provide dental care. The dental H.O.M.E. Coach serves working families with no dental insurance and their children by accepting only public health insurance and requires no payments for uninsured patients.

The H.O.M.E. Coach program focuses on three main goals: (1) To provide underserved children with oral health care that offers them a dental "home;" (2) To give dental students an array of hands-on learning experiences that include pediatric dentistry treatments performed under the supervision of Ohio State faculty members; and (3) To positively impact the problems of access to oral health care for Ohio's families. The dental H.O.M.E. coach meets the oral health needs of Ohioans in key underserved areas while training sensitive and culturally competent health professionals and the Delta Dental Foundation is proud to participate as a funding partner for these efforts.

HB 203 would codify important best practices by requiring that patients receiving dental services at a mobile dental facility receive key information about their care: the names of the people who provided dental services to the patient, the telephone number of the mobile dental facility, a list of dental services provided to the patient, recommendations for further dental services, and information about obtaining the patient's dental records. These common sense requirements will ensure that Ohioans who choose to receive dental services from a mobile dental facility have the opportunity to seamlessly pursue follow-up dental care elsewhere as necessary and desired.

As a member of the Board of Oral Health Ohio, I am happy to join my fellow Board members in advocating for passage of HB 203. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erika Cybulskis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'E' and a decorative flourish at the end.

Erika Cybulskis