



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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The Honorable John Carney,
Governor

John McNeal, Director
SCPD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 24, 2023

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Mr. Benjamin Shrader, Chairperson 
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: HB 83 (Kindergarten Oral Health Screening)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed HB 83 which modifies Chapter 41, Title 14 of the Delaware Code to require an oral health screening for every kindergarten student “who did not indicate during enrollment that they were seen by a dentist by the last student attendance day of each school year.” The proposed amendments provide procedures for notifying parents and IEP teams of failed oral health screenings and connecting families with a dental referrals.

SCPD has the following observations:

According to a 2013 report from the Delaware Health and Social Services Bureau of Oral Health and Dental Services, approximately 50% of children in Delaware have experienced tooth decay and equity issues continue to be evidence in the rates of dental preventative care received.¹ While this report exhibited the substantial need for children’s dental care, it also highlighted notable improvements in child dental health

¹ DEL. HEALTH AND SOC. SERV., DIV. PUB. HEALTH, BUREAU OF ORAL HEALTH DENTAL SERV., *Delaware Smiles: The Oral Health of Delaware’s Children*, at 5, 8, 11, 13-8, <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsm/files/desmilesreport.pdf>

across Delaware following state interventions, including interventions promoting age-one dental visits and elementary age referrals.

SCPD endorses this legislation as it continues the successful work of prior interventions and promotes and improves equitable dental healthcare access for children in Delaware.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our position or observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

HB 83 Kindergarten Oral Health Screening 4-24-23