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To Whom it May Concern

I am a pediatric dentist, and lately have had several patients who are not completing their dental treatment plan due to missing school. When children have dental decay, it must take priority. The enamel on children's teeth is very small, and teeth decay quickly. Within 6 months of delaying treatment, teeth can and often go from needing a standard filling, to even needing a crown, baby root canal, or extraction.

Children, especially younger children, have short attention spans and are not able to sit in a dental chair for long periods of time. Also, numbing too many quadrants is dangerous for children due to biting lips, tongues, and cheeks.

When children have dental cavities, many times all posterior teeth become affected due to the shallowness of the enamel and need multiple appts, usually up to four.

To deny kids the opportunity to have their fillings fixed is putting these children at risk. Also, with holding a policy that children can only have 4 doctors notes is discriminating to these children. Often times, these children are of lower socioeconomic status and need help the most. They also have a higher chance of harboring worse bacteria, having more extensive decay, and needing immediate attention.

By implementing this policy, KY Board of Education is responsible for contributing to many of these children's pain and possible infection.

I urge you to allow children the opportunity to have their health taken care of without being penalized.

Thank you,
Kelly Wessel, DMD, MSD