



On behalf of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU), please consider this written testimony in support of SB 326 to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, **as amended.**

KAMU has been the Primary Care Association of Kansas for 23 years. As the Primary Care Association, KAMU represents 40 primary care safety net clinics that all share the same mission of providing health care services without regard for the patients' ability to pay. KAMU and our members believe Kansas should be a state where all individuals have access to comprehensive, affordable and quality health care.

The spirit of SB 326 is to increase the reach of Extended Care Practice (ECP) dental hygienists to better serve children in our state's schools. Although this bill as originally introduced does not necessarily accomplish this, the amendment recommended by Oral Health Kansas during today's testimony does move a bit forward in meeting the spirit of the bill. This amendment on page 3, line 5 reinstates "free or reduced lunch programs." Reinserting this language allows for Primary Care Safety Net Clinics that provide ECP dental hygiene services to continue these services they are currently providing as well as expand the dental hygiene services to additional school children who have not seen a dentist in the past 12 months.

Although this bill moves forward the state's intent to increase access to dental services for children, it falls short. ECP hygienists could make an even more meaningful contribution to children's oral health if there were no restrictions on children they can serve – especially those restrictions based upon income or insurance status. **Therefore, I propose further amending SB 326 as follows:** Strike the following language on page 3, lines 4 – 5, "*also meet the requirements of medicaid, healthwave, or free or reduced lunch programs.*" This will allow all school children to receive dental services by ECP hygienists with their parents' permission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 326 as amended, and for considering this additional proposed amendment. Mike Hutfles is here today on behalf of KAMU to answer any questions you may have.

Cathy Harding

Executive Director
Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved