



To: Sen. Vicki Schmidt, Chair, and Members,  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
From: Rachel Monger, Director of Government Affairs  
Date: March 7, 2012

### **Testimony in Support of House Bill 2631**

Thank you, Madame Chair and Members of the Committee. I am Rachel Monger, the Director of Government Affairs for LeadingAge Kansas, formerly known as KAHSA. Our 160 members include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living and residential health care residences, homes plus, low income housing, licensed home health agencies and other community based service programs throughout Kansas.

Access to routine dental care is a serious challenge for nursing home residents and their caregivers, especially in rural areas of the State. The proposed Extended Care Permit III expands the type of dental care services that could be provided to elders in adult care homes.

Although it does not address or eliminate all of the dental care challenges faced by our members and their residents, we support House Bill 2631 as a positive first step in addressing the issue of dental care access for Kansas seniors.

Thank you.