

To: Public Health and Welfare Committee
Re: HB 2631

Madam Chair and members of the Committee,

The Kansas Dental Project, led by Kansas Action for Children, the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, and the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition, respectfully submits neutral testimony regarding HB 2631.

The Kansas Dental Project believes that the dental workforce and access issues faced by Kansans require significant changes to the system of care we have in place now, such as the creation of a mid-level provider. The Registered Dental Practitioner (RDP), as outlined in SB 192, is currently in this committee. We believe the RDP proposal establishes a provider that has the appropriate education and scope of practice to provide the level of treatment needed across Kansas communities. The RDP proposal has the potential to extend the reach of the dental team and result in substantial improvements in access to dental care.

HB 2631, while a small step in the right direction, will not provide communities with the workforce needed to adequately address the dental workforce shortage. Without the ability to provide permanent fillings, use the appropriate dental tools, and ensure that the supervising dentist has a responsibility to provide care beyond their scope of practice, ECP III Hygienists will not provide the breadth of care needed to address dental access barriers across Kansas.

It is important to note that the proposal in HB 2631 does not represent a compromise between the Kansas Dental Association and the Kansas Dental Project. The Kansas Dental Project believes that through SB 192 we have brought forth a strong, research-based proposal that will add a member to the dental team that will increase access to care, much like Physician Assistants have done in the medical field. As you consider options for addressing our dental workforce and access to care issues, we hope you will not only advance small steps in the right direction, but will also advance policies such as those contained in SB 192, that have the potential to have a major impact on access to dental care for all Kansans.



The Kansas Dental Project is a collaborative effort by Kansas citizens, community leaders and health care professionals to address the dental workforce shortage in Kansas and improve access to dental care for Kansans in rural and underserved areas.

The Kansas Dental Project is spearheaded by:

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