

February 14, 2017  
Andrea L. Buls, RDH, BSDH, RT (R)  
Concorde Career College  
House Bill 2139  
House Health and Human Services Committee

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrea Buls. I am a Dental Hygiene Instructor at Concorde Career College in Kansas City, Missouri. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in my support of House Bill 2139.

I feel that there is great need to increase our presence access to care in Kansas. We, as dental hygienists, work with patients very closely and often identify oral as well as medical issues before other health care providers can. I feel that we have adequate training to provide many aspects of dental care to our patients and by doing so we would be able to reach so many more patients.

I work with dental hygiene students every day and there is a huge desire to work in public health. Many students inquire about ways to get out in the community and reach more people in need of our care. I feel that implementation of the dental therapist will open up this door for the dental hygiene profession.

Our geriatric population as well as school aged children would benefit by having a dental hygienist available to come to them to provide care. After watching the lack of care my grandmother received while living in a nursing home before her death, I was appalled by the lack of attention given to her oral care.

As I have stated, I am in complete support of House Bill 2139 and want to encourage the committee to give great thought and consideration into supporting dental therapists to practice in Kansas as well.

I would like to thank you Chairman Hawkins and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Buls, RDH, BSDH, RT (R)