



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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## Are You Ready for Fluoride?

Kansas communities are facing challenges to their community water fluoridation (CWF) programs. Sometimes the community knows it is coming, other times, the challenge is a surprise. Help us be ready for fluoride by completing this quick [readiness assessment](#).



## November is Home Care & Hospice Month

November is National Homecare and Hospice Month! During November the home care and hospice community honor the millions of nurses, home care aides, therapists, and social workers, and dental hygienists who make a remarkable difference for the patients and families they serve.

The [Kansas Home Care Association](#), formed in 1973, is the leading statewide organization representing home care and providing leadership, support and services to the home care and hospice industry in Kansas. We thank the Kansas Home Care Association for their ongoing partnership with Oral Health Kansas. OHK Community Development Specialist Marcia Manter has presented at their conference for the past 3 years. Their organization truly works to provide Kansans with the best care at home emphasizing the importance of good oral health.



*Caring for Kansans at Home*

**Kansas Home Care Association**

To get involved in National Home Care and Hospice Month, [click here!](#)

## Dental Champions Corner

The first phase of the Dental Champions Class VII kicked off today at the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita.

Leaders from across the state in the fields of dentistry, pediatrics, advocacy, and health policy will work together over the next year to build their leadership capacity to improve our state's readiness to protect water fluoridation.



## Rural Dentistry Webinar

At our [2014 conference](#) earlier this month, the Best Practices in Rural Kansas Dentistry panel discussed how they meet the oral health needs of rural Kansans. Vanderbilt University's Center for Interdisciplinary Health

## Concannon named Outstanding Policymaker

Earlier this month, Oral Health Kansas was pleased to honor Representative Susan Concannon with the 2014 Bob Bethell Outstanding Policymaker award.



2014 is a year marked by attempts by the state's anti-fluoridationists to scare the general public into questioning the safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation, with the ultimate goal of seeing it removed from public water systems. Their activism took them to Topeka, where the House Health and Human Services Committee scheduled a hearing on HB 2372, which would have directed local water departments to inform residents that water fluoridation lowers the IQ of children-which is a complete falsehood.

On the face of it, HB 2372 did not seem serious. But Representative Concannon, who serves as Vice Chair of the committee, was one of the very few legislators who instinctively understood the bill could cause very real harm by planting seeds of fear and doubt among thoughtful Kansans.

We applaud her leadership and decision to act, to guarantee that the bill would not only die, but be killed publicly. She wanted to send a message and refused to be annoyed into submission or threatened

Workforce Studies is hosting a webinar to address ways to strengthen the rural dental workforce through policy and partnerships.



VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY

This webinar will be  
**December 10th from 1 - 2  
pm CST.** [Check it out here!](#)

If you missed the  
conference, you can still  
check out all of the [speaker  
presentations.](#)

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by the anti's bullying tactics. She listened to advocates and talked with her fellow lawmakers to shore up the votes.

Representative Concannon worked quickly and decisively. We thank her for her leadership and look forward to working with her to protect community water fluoridation and advance oral health in the years to come.

## Traveling Sugary Drink Display

Reserve our traveling Sugary Drink Display for your business or event! Reservations are made for one month at a time. Return postage is covered by Oral Health Kansas. [E-mail Sarah here](#) if you would like to make reservation.



If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).

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