



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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## Dental care and bullying

Individuals who display good dental esthetics are assumed to be better at making friends, dating and career advancement, while those with poor dental appearance, often are perceived to have low esteem (Seehra, Newton, & DiBiase, 2011). [Read more](#) about bullying and dental care.

## Nutrition labeling bill worrisome

The House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee met this afternoon to consider [HB 2595](#). This bill would give the Kansas Legislature the sole authority to regulate consumer incentive items and nutrition labeling for food and nonalcoholic beverages. The bill would prevent any local units of government from labeling food or beverages as healthy or unhealthy, but it would not supersede federal law regulating nutrition labeling.

Five proponents of the bill argued that uniform regulation of food and beverages will benefit businesses from restaurants to vending machine operators and farming operations. Seven opponents of the bill asserted that the bill removes local control, which is a value long-revered in Kansas. The opponents also talked about how broadly the bill can be applied to activities at the local level related to promoting health food and

## All 4 Oral Health



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## KanCare Forum

A KanCare forum will be held March 2, at the Maner Conference Center, Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. To view more information [click here](#).



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## Free dental care for kids

For the month of February, Concorde Career College In Kansas City, Missouri, is providing free dental services to kids ages 1-18 through the [Give Kids A Smile Program](#).



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## Watch and Brush

Having problems with your child not wanting to brush? Have him

beverages.

Oral Health Kansas is engaged in a new project designed to educate schools and students about the health benefits of choosing water to drink, and this bill has the potential to limit our ability to carry out the activities of the project. We provided testimony in opposition to the bill that expressed these concerns.

The committee will consider action on the bill on Thursday, February 18 in advance of an accelerated timeline to conclude the first part of the 2016 Legislative Session. Tuesday, February 23 will be "Turnaround Day," which is the deadline for bills in each chamber to be passed in order to be considered by the opposite chamber. Turnaround Day originally was scheduled for Friday, February 26, but the date was moved up in order to ensure more legislative days are available at the end of the session in the event they are needed.



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## Senate Public Health and Welfare Chair removed

For the second time in the last three months, one of the leaders of a

or her watch a 2 minute video while brushing.

<http://2min2x.org/watch-brush/>



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## Drink Display

1-20oz. Soda a Day for a Month = 5 lbs. of Sugar

Reserve a drink display and show kids and parents how much sugar is in their favorite drink!

The drink display is free for you to use. We can ship to anywhere in Kansas! Shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. To reserve a drink display, [email us!](#)



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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legislative health committee has been removed from that post.

Last Friday, Senate President Susan Wagle, R-Wichita, removed Senate Public Health and Welfare Chair Mary Pilcher-Cook, R-Shawnee, from that committee and stripped her of her post as Chair after Pilcher-Cook offered an amendment to expand Medicaid believing it would fail. Last November, Susan Concannon, R-Beloit, was removed as Vice Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee after expressing support for Medicaid expansion.

Wagle has named Sen. Michael O'Donnell, R-Wichita, "interim chair" of the committee, and has moved up Sen. Elaine Bowers, R-Concordia, to vice-chair. Since Pilcher-Cook's removal, seventeen Republican Senators have signed a letter asking Wagle to reinstate her as chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. Learn more about this developing story from the [KHI News Service](#).



Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook

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## Advocates gather at Capitol

On January 10, about 160 advocates gathered at the Capitol to promote the new dental therapist legislation. The Kansas Dental Project introduced a new bill this year that would create a midlevel dental professional known as a dental therapist. The bill is assigned to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, but it has not been scheduled for a hearing yet. Track SB 413 and read the full text on the [Kansas Legislature's website](#).



Advocates on the statehouse steps. Photo courtesy of Kansas Dental Project.

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