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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

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### Dental Champions Corner

## Anti-water fluoridation bill hearing is held



The House Health and Human Services Committee heard HB 2372 Wednesday afternoon. The proposed legislation would require local entities that fluoridate the water to notify customers that "the latest science confirms that ingested fluoride lowers the I.Q. in children." The studies on which this falsehood is based are fraught with deficiencies.

The hearing room was packed with fluoridation supporters sporting yellow stickers saying, "No on House Bill 2372." Committee members heard from three proponents of the bill, two of whom came from Georgia and New York. They also heard from five Kansans who support water fluoridation. A litany of organizations supporting water fluoridation also submitted written testimony in opposition to the bill.

Oral Health Kansas' Board President Dr. Brian Smith testified before the committee saying, "The bill is



Dr. Raben, a member of the current class (Class VI), gave expert testimony before the legislature in opposition to HB 2372. As a pro-fluoride champion during the Wichita campaign in 2012, she was perfectly poised to speak for the dental community and advocate for this preventive public health measure.  
Thanks, Dr. Raben!



## Reader's Survey

How are we doing? What kinds of stories would you like to see in the Weekly Wednesday Update  
Take our short, five minute survey [here](#).

## Traveling Sugary Drink Display

based on blatant falsehoods and manipulated science. It undermines public health. A law like this has no place in a well-run system of limited and effective government. We fear that, if passed, this bill could threaten Kansans' access to optimally fluoridated water, which is the single greatest population-based strategy communities have to ensure good oral health for their citizens."

Committee members asked thoughtful, informed questions of all the conferees, including one committee member who pointed out the deficiencies in the cited studies and then asked, "And you want us to warn people that fluoride really does lower IQs?"

Follow updates on this story, including a re-cap of several news stories published about the hearing, on [www.fluoridekansas.org](http://www.fluoridekansas.org).

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## "50% Rule" Discussed in House Bill 2611 Hearing

The House and Human Services Committee held a hearing for House Bill 2611 on February 17th. The bill updates legislation from 1943, which originally stated that dentists must be present in their offices "during a majority of the time patients are being treated," limiting dentists to two satellite clinics outside of their home clinic. If changed, dentists would be required to be present in their offices at least 20% of the time. [See the bill here](#).

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## RDP Day at the Capitol

February 12th was the Kansas Dental Project's Registered Dental Practitioner Advocacy Day at the state capitol. Over 115 advocates participated in advocacy training and meetings with legislators. Many dental hygiene students took part in the advocacy day and spoke with legislators about the career opportunities they believe the RDP could hold in store



Reserve our traveling Sugary Drink Display for your business or event! Displays are available from March onward and reservations are made for one month at a time. Postage is covered by Oral Health Kansas.

[E-mail Caroline here](#) if you are interested.

for them.

## Medicaid Expansion Advocacy



Join advocates on March 18 to take a stand for Kansas to Expand Medicaid! The Kansas Medicaid Access Coalition will start at the Topeka Statehouse Rotunda at 9 a.m. The day will begin with speaker presentations

and meeting with your legislators throughout the day to share with them why its important for Medicaid expansion.

Learn more and join the event on [Facebook](#).

## ADA Recommends Fluoride Toothpaste After First Tooth Erupts

The American Dental Association now recommends the use of "a tiny smear of fluoride toothpaste" on baby teeth as soon as the first tooth erupts.




Parents are encouraged to put a dot the size of a "grain of rice" on their fingers to coat the baby's teeth or brush it on using a small toothbrush with soft bristles. The purpose of fluoride in toothpaste is to strengthen tooth enamel to protect against tooth decay. The goal is to ensure that young children remain cavity-free. Children today between the ages of 2 -5 have a high rate of tooth decay. In the past decay, the rate of decay grew from 24% to 28%.

[Read the ADA's full press release here.](#)

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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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