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Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 4:36 PM
To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org
Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
Weekly Wednesday Update

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

Volume 2, Issue 10

February 23, 2011

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**Through with
Chew Week**

February 20
through February
26 is "Through
With Chew Week."

The goal of the
week is to raise
awareness about

Legislative Update

Adult Dental Services in Medicaid

As we reported last week, throughout the month of February, the House and Senate budget committees are holding hearings on the FY 2012 budget. Oral Health Kansas is providing testimony about the need to implement an adult dental benefit in the Kansas Medicaid program. The Medicaid program includes dental services for children, but not for adults. Oral Health Kansas believes people should not be allowed to age out of dental services.

At this writing two budget reports have been finalized which include language recommending further legislative review of the cost effectiveness of an adult dental benefit in Medicaid. Oral Health Kansas will participate in the future discussions with the budget committees about the effectiveness of dental services for all people who are eligible for Medicaid.

To see copies of the testimony Oral Health Kansas has provided to a variety of committees during this Session, please visit the legislative alerts page on our website.

2011 Dental Bills

Last week we reviewed the key dental bills that have been

the dangers of smokeless tobacco and encourage smokeless tobacco users to quit.

The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that the use of smokeless tobacco is not a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes. Smokeless tobacco is addictive and can cause high blood pressure, throat cancer, mouth cancer, gum disease, tooth decay and gum recession.

Dentists and hygienists are encouraged to ask patients about tobacco use, advise patients to quit and refer them to the Kansas Tobacco Quitline 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free help quitting.

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introduced this year. This week is what is known as "Turn Around Week." That means all bills must move out of their chamber of origin. Because so many bills are in flux this week, we will report next week on the status of the major dental bills Oral Health Kansas is following. In the mean time, if there are any specific questions about a bill, Oral Health Kansas staff are happy to answer them.

Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act

The 2010 Kansas Legislature passed the Clean Indoor Air Act, which eliminates smoking in public places. This has been a huge step forward in improve the health of all Kansans. A January 2011 poll by Public Opinion Strategies found that 77 percent of Kansas voters support the state's smokefree law. The poll showed that 84 percent of Kansas voters view secondhand smoke as a health hazard. 54 percent of people who smoke like the state's smokefree law. For more inforantion [CLICK HERE](#).

A bill has been introduced in the House Health and Human Services Committee would erode the smokefree law by allowing smoking in bars that sell lottery tickets. Oral Health Kansas supports the current smokefree law. We urge you to contact your representatives to express your support for the law as well. If you need any help finding contact information for your representative, please contact the Oral Health Kansas office.

Your message could include the following:

Date
Honorable Representative _____,

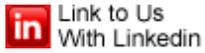
I support the Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act which protects my family/employees/me from the dangers of second hand smoke in public places. I am opposed to HB 2340 or any other effort to undermine the new smoke free law.

Describe why you like the Kansas smoke free law that covers public places, workplaces, restaurants and bars.

Urge lawmakers to keep the new law intact and give it a chance to keep working.

Sincerely,
Name
Address

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org



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