In honor of National Children's Dental Health Month, the Kansas Dental Association is holding its annual Drawing Contest, as well as the fifth annual Class Project Contest. All third grade students in Kansas are invited to participate! Third grade students and their teachers have the chance to win $50, $100 or even $500!

Click here to find out more!

Turnaround Day in Kansas

Last Thursday, February 22nd, was Turnaround Day for the Kansas Legislature. This is the official mid-point in the regular 2018 legislative session and the final day to consider bills from non-exempt committees* in their chamber of origin, House or Senate. While this is an important day to ensure bills coming from health committees are still alive, bills are not officially dead until the legislative session is over. There are also bills from non-exempt committees that leaders want to keep alive for possible action, so they will be "blessed" by referring them to an exempt committee and then re-referring them back to their original committee.

Legislators returned today to complete the second half of the legislative session following a couple days off after Turnaround Day. As we work through the remainder of the session, Oral Health Kansas will continue to follow legislation and advocate for policies that increase access to dental providers and a way to
Shop online and help OHK

Amazon is tripling the donation amount to 1.5% when customers make their first eligible smile.amazon.com purchase from March 12 - 31. Shop and help support OHK! Click here and start shopping!

Sugary Drink Display

March reservations are full! Yes, full. We have people requesting drink displays in advance for their health fair events, offices, schools, etc. Don't wait, put your name on the list now for April!

The sugary drink display has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We also include some of our Tips and Tricks fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The display is free to use for up to a month, and we pay for dental services.

One of the bills we will continue advocating for is the expansion of Medicaid through SB 38. SB 38 unanimously passed through the Senate Public Health and Welfare committee on February 19th but has yet to be heard on the Senate floor. As the Majority Leader in the Kansas Senate, Senator Jim Denning sets the debate calendar on the Senate floor and is responsible for this bill's future right now. We need you to call Senator Denning's office and ask that SB 38 -- "Establishing the KanCare Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Program" -- be added to the debate calendar for the full Senate. The Senate is ready for this debate. Call Senator Denning at 785-296-2497 and let the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas know how the call goes by clicking here!

We will also be following SB 312 - "Licensure of Dental Therapists" - as it enters the House Health and Human Services committee after unanimously passing the Senate Chamber on February 15th!

*Exempt committees include Senate Federal and State Affairs, Senate Ways and Means, Senate Assessment and Taxation, House Calendar and Printing, House Appropriations, and House Taxation.
reimburse postage! Need it for just a one day event? That's ok too!

Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! Email us!

New Communications Toolkit on Oral Health Reform

We are excited to announce the release of Reframing Oral Health: A Communications Toolkit for Advancing Oral Health Reform. This multimedia resource will not only deepen your ability to develop skills that elevate oral health issues, but will also align our voices for greater impact. This toolkit was developed through a collaboration between the FrameWorks Institute and DentaQuest Foundation.

Find this infographic and other tools here!
IT'S ALL CONNECTED
The health of the mouth influences other aspects of health—and vice versa.

1. **Brain Health** — Mouth-Health Connection
   - Poor oral health is linked to cognitive decline and higher risk of Alzheimer's disease.

2. **Diabetes** — Mouth-Health Connection
   - Oral health issues like gum disease can contribute to blood sugar control difficulties.

3. **Heart Health** — Mouth-Health Connection
   - Poor oral hygiene can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke.

4. **Respiratory Health** — Mouth-Health Connection
   - Infections in the mouth can lead to respiratory problems like pneumonia.

5. **Sexual Health** — Mouth-Health Connection
   - Good oral hygiene can enhance sexual function and satisfaction.

6. **Diabetes** — Oral-Health Connection
   - Regular dental check-ups can help detect diabetes early and prevent complications.

7. **Heart Health** — Oral-Health Connection
   - Good oral hygiene can reduce the risk of heart disease.

8. **Pregnancy** — Oral-Health Connection
   - Pregnant women with gum disease have an increased risk of premature births.

9. **Gastrointestinal Health** — Oral-Health Connection
   - Oral bacteria can enter the bloodstream and cause gastrointestinal problems.

10. **Respiratory Health** — Oral-Health Connection
    - Poor oral health can lead to respiratory issues.

11. **Brain Health** — Oral-Health Connection
    - Oral health issues can affect cognitive function and overall health.

**It's all connected!**
A practical approach to health includes oral health in planning, policy, and practice.