



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Norton, Kansas, School District 211 reserved our sugary drink display for the month of February for National Children's Dental Health Month.

Below, Mrs. Kim Fiscus is explaining the drink display to the children. The drink display was viewed by several classrooms and gave children an opportunity to view the sugar jars up close. Children and adults could not believe the amount of sugar in the beverages.

## "Senior Dental Care is Not Optional"

OHK's executive director, Tanya Dorf Brunner, was featured as a Guest Column in Keynotes, a publication by the [North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, Inc.](#) Tanya expressed the need for dental services to be covered by Medicare and KanCare, the state's Medicaid program. Too often our organization hears stories from consumers who have insurance but KanCare and Medicare do not cover dental services therefore seniors go without or have to use what little funds they have in savings to pay for the dental care they need.

In her op-ed, Tanya urges the need for advocacy. Seniors, family members and care givers can talk to their legislators and share their story with them to express the need for dental services. OHK advocates for dental services in Medicare and KanCare. If you would like to share your story, contact us at



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## Facts on Fluoride

Are you interested in learning more about community water fluoridation in Kansas? The newly updated [Fluoride in Kansas website](#) does just that! You will find information for Kansas county data, the history of water fluoridation and facts you can share with others!



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## Reserve a sugary drink display now!

Happy first day of March! We have a limited amount of drink displays available this month. Reserving yours ahead of time is crucial for a guaranteed slot. [Sign up now!](#)

Our sugary drink display contains 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is

[info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org), or 785-235-6039. Let us know you would like to be added to the list of Kansans who will not stand for seniors to go without dental services.

Read Tanya's full op-ed [here](#).



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## Senate prepares to take on Medicaid expansion

Last week, the Kansas House passed a Medicaid expansion bill by a vote of 81-44. The passage of HB 2044 marked the most significant progress for Medicaid expansion in our state. Over 150 individuals and organizations submitted testimony in favor of the bill when the House Health and Human Services Committee held hearings earlier in February.

Now, the Senate is poised to take up the issue. The Public Health and Welfare Committee has scheduled two days of hearings on HB 2044 in March. The proponents will testify on March 20, and the opponents will testify on March 21. Oral Health Kansas provided testimony in

in each. The display is free to use, up to a month and we reimburse postage.



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the House and will provide testimony again in the Senate. Copies of all of our testimony from this year can be found on our [website](#).

Kansas has forfeited over \$1.7 billion in federal funds by not expanding our Medicaid program so far. The dollars left on the table increase every day, while over 150,000 low-income working adults remain without health insurance. Learn more about expanding Medicaid in Kansas by visiting:

[www.expandkancare.com](http://www.expandkancare.com).

If you are interested in providing testimony in favor of Medicaid expansion, please contact Oral Health Kansas at [info@ohks.org](mailto:info@ohks.org).



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