



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Nutrition bill passes the House

Last week, the Kansas House of Representatives passed [HB 2595](#) by a vote of 89 to 34. This bill gives the Legislature the sole authority in the state to regulate food nutrition information and consumer incentive items served with food or nonalcoholic beverages.

Oral Health Kansas advocated to amend the bill to allow local political subdivisions, including school districts, to share nutritional information for educational purposes. The bill with this amendment now is assigned to the Senate Commerce Committee. The Legislature is scheduled for its "first adjournment" this week

ACA: Six years of progress

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law six years ago today - on March 23, 2010. As a result, 20 million Americans have gained access to health and dental insurance, including [over 101,000 Kansans](#) who enrolled in private insurance plans through the Marketplace this year. Among the many reforms in the law, the ACA was responsible for allowing children to stay on their parents' health insurance plans until the age of 26 and for ensuring people can be insured regardless of pre-existing conditions.



The ACA allows states to expand their

and will take a month-long break, resuming session on April 27. If the Senate takes up this bill, it will be after April 27.



KDA Plans Pre-dental Consortium

The Kansas Dental Association (KDA) will host a Pre-dental Consortium on Saturday, April 30 at the Kansas State University Student Union. This event will be made possible with support from the DentaQuest Foundation.

The purpose of the pre-dental consortium is to introduce pre-dental students to the KDA, get them involved with the dental community prior to entering dental school, and to help them prepare to apply for dental school.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register for the consortium.



Easter holiday and candy

With Easter, comes the basket full of candy. If you're struggling on what to put in a basket, find creative ideas to include coloring books, chalk, bubbles, etc. If you would like to include candy, [here](#) are some best and worst Easter candy to keep an

Medicaid programs to cover adults with incomes at or below the [Federal Poverty Level](#), which is \$11,880 for an individual. These individuals make too much money to qualify for Medicaid under existing rules, but too little money to qualify for subsidized health plans through the state and federal Marketplaces. Kansas is one of nineteen states that has not yet expanded its Medicaid program, known as KanCare. Montana is a state that expanded its Medicaid program this year, and [the KHI News Service reported today](#) that the state is seeing large number of eligible people enroll in Medicaid, along with a \$3 million savings in the state general fund. The Montana expansion plans requires people to pay a premium for their Medicaid coverage, which is similar to the model being promoted in Kansas. Learn more about how to get involved in advocating to expand KanCare by visiting the [Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#).

Sorority promotes healthy habits in Kansas City

OHK's Board Member Amber Sellers, and current president for the Kansas City, Kansas Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority held their annual Youth Symposium: Spring Break in the City. The purpose of the event was to address some of the prevalent concerns that negatively impact our youth. This year they focused on oral health, nutrition and financial education.

Children and their families decorated piggy banks, spoke with a representative from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, sampled healthy snacks donated by Sprouts Farmers Market and played educational games such as

eye out for.



Sugary Drink Display: Beware of acid attacks

Each sip of a sugary drink, is a **20 minute acid attack**. What are you drinking?

Reserve a spot to use our sugary drink display! Exhibit the display at work, a school or community event. The display shows how much sugar is in each drink and its free to use! Shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. [Email us](#) to reserve a spot!



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math bingo. The Sorority's youth group (called Rhoers) assisted in the event as well.

Amber shared Oral Health Kansas' sugary drink display, which was by far the most popular station at the event. The children had the chance to visit with a local dental assistant (and mother to one of the Rhoer youth) who volunteered and spoke with children about healthy oral health habits and shared information about the drink display.

The sorority understands that many children in the urban core of Wyandotte County don't go anywhere for spring break, so this was an innovative way for them to provide an activity that would be impacting as well as educational and fun for the children.



World Water Day Celebrated


This week marked World Water Day, and Oral Health Kansas commemorated the occasion on our social media platforms. World Water Day is the perfect opportunity to highlight the benefits of drinking optimally fluoridated water in order to keep teeth healthy and strong.

Like us on **Facebook** 

Follow us on **twitter**

FOLLOW US ON *Pinterest*

View our videos on **You Tube**

 View on Instagram



As Oral Health Kansas moves forward with the new Thirsty for Health project, we are excited to share resources and collaborate to increase the amount of water Kansas children drink each day. If your local school district is interested in learning how they can help students stay hydrated and healthy please contact Kelly Rippel, Water Access Manager at krippel@ohks.org.

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