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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 3, Issue 13

March 28, 2012

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**U.S. Supreme Court Takes Up the
ACA**

This week the U.S. Supreme Court held three days of oral arguments on the states' challenge to the Affordable Care Act. Twenty-six states, including Kansas, are included in this legal challenge. The arguments this week mark the first time in forty years that the Court held hearings on more than one day for a single legal challenge.

On day one, the Court heard arguments about the Anti-Injunction Act, which is a 19th century law that prohibits federal courts from ruling against tax provisions until they have taken effect. This was a debate about whether the Court has the authority to rule on the Affordable Care Act before the penalties for not buying health insurance go into effect in 2014. Initial indications are that all the parties want the Court to rule sooner rather than later on the Affordable Care Act.

The second day was the main event of the week, as the subject was the individual mandate. This provision of the law requires people who do not have health insurance through an employer or through Medicaid or Medicare to purchase insurance. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), in many ways, hinges on all Americans purchasing insurance in order to keep insurance costs as low as possible and to enforce provisions, such as eliminating pre-existing

**Bureau of Oral
Health 2012
Dental
Professional Loan
Re-Payment
Program**

Applications are now available for the 2012 Bureau of Oral Health Dental Professional Loan Re-payment program.

Eligible dentists and dental hygienists can receive up to \$30,000 to apply to their educational debt. Details of the program are attached to this email and also available [HERE](#).

**APPLICATIONS ARE
DUE 4/6/2012**

Questions should be directed to [Dr. Weno](#) at the Bureau of Oral Health.

**KDA and Delta
Dental Launch
Loan Repayment
Program**

This month the Kansas Dental Association and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation announced the formation of KIND: The Kansas Initiative for New Dentists. Through the generosity of the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation, KIND will provide two \$50,000 grants to dental school graduates who set up practice in the "dental deserts" of the state. These are communities that do not have a dentist within 20 miles.

Applications for the KIND program will be accepted until May 15.

**To learn more [CLICK
HERE](#)**

conditions.

Today marked the final day of arguments, and two subjects were discussed. First the Court heard arguments about the severability of the law. If the Court were to rule the individual mandate within the ACA is unconstitutional, it would have to determine which, if any, of the other provisions of the law would remain in effect. The second argument today related to the Medicaid expansion provision of the ACA. The law expands eligibility for the Medicaid program to all adults whose income is lower than 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. Under the current law, 100% of the cost of the expansion population would be covered by the federal government in 2014, and the federal payment rate would be reduced to 90% by 2017. The federal payment rate for the existing Medicaid populations is 60% in Kansas. The rate for the existing population would remain unchanged. The parties argued today about whether the requirement to add more adults to the Medicaid program amounts to coercion of the states to pay more money to expand Medicaid.

The Court expected to rule on all these arguments in June of this year.

To read the transcripts of the Supreme Court arguments or to listen to the oral arguments, please visit the following links:

[Monday, March 26](#)

[Tuesday, March 27](#)

[Wednesday, March 28](#)



Water Fluoridation Toolkit

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition has announced the release of a new Water Fluoridation Toolkit. It provides information about the water fluoridation process and shares many of the common myths surrounding fluoridation. The toolkit is available on the Michigan Oral Health Coalition [website](#).

2012 Oral Health Kansas Conference

The Conference will feature a special reception with the new Big Mouth exhibit at [Exploration Place](#) sponsored by Dental Dental of Kansas Foundation.



Did You Know???

Each set of teeth as well as the tongue is unique just like fingerprints.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



SAVE THE DATE

Make plans to attend the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Annual Conference!

SAVE THE DATE

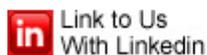
Oral Health Kansas Conference 2012

September 13-14, 2012
Hotel at Old Town - Wichita, Kansas

Prevention MATTERS

For More Information:
www.oralhealthkansas.org

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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