



Board of Directors

Bonnie Branson, RDH, PhD
UMKC School of Dentistry

Karen Finstad
Delta Dental of KS Foundation

Heidi Foster
Rawlins County Dental Clinic

Ron Gaches, JD
KS Dental Hygienists' Assn.

Catherine Gray
Child Care Aware of KS

Bill Hammond
USD 443

Cathy Harding, MA
KS Association for the
Medically Underserved

Mark Herzog, DDS

Barbara Langner
Kansas Health
Policy Authority

Jose Lopez, DDS

Denise Maseman, RDH, MS
WSU School of
Dental Hygiene

Rich Oberbeck
Henry Schein Dental

Jill Quigley

Kevin Robertson, MPA, CAE
KS Dental Assn.

Douglas Stuckey
Community Health Center of SEK

Marlou Wegener
Blue Cross and
Blue Shield of KS

Katherine Weno, DDS, JD
KDHE, Bureau of Oral Health

**Health and Human Services Committee
February 17, 2011**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about HB 2280. My name is Tanya Dorf Brunner, and I am the Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas, Inc. We are the statewide advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the importance of lifelong dental health by shaping policy and educating the public so Kansans know that all mouths matter. We achieve our mission through advocacy, public awareness, and education. Oral Health Kansas has over 1,100 supporters, including dentists, dental hygienists, educators, safety net clinics, charitable foundations, and advocates for children, people with disabilities and older Kansans.

We see three types of barriers to accessing oral health in our state: access to a payment source; access to a provider; and willingness to access services. A variety of approaches to all three types of access must be present in order for all people to have adequate access to oral health care. With our partners in the oral health field, we are working to address each of these through a variety of means.

Oral Health Kansas recognizes the need to expand and strengthen the dental workforce in Kansas. We believe access to both a provider and a payment source need to be strengthened in order to ensure all Kansans have access to good oral health care. Without a funding source, people do not have access to dental services. Likewise, without a dental provider, people do not have access to dental services. Both are critical, and one of our key priorities is to strengthen the Kansas Medicaid program by ensuring all people eligible for the program have access to dental services.

Our board supports the efforts being undertaken to address dental workforce issues through SB 132 and HB 2280. This Committee will hear testimony from lots of the experts on the specific components of this bill. They will help you determine the best public policy for the state related to oral health providers. I am here on behalf of Oral Health Kansas, representing an objective, third party advocacy organization, that encourages you to support HB 2280 to address the general, statewide interest in expanding and strengthening access to oral health services.

Oral Health Kansas is dedicated to collaboration; as such, we encourage the parties working on dental workforce models to collaborate on a model that works best to meet the oral health needs of all Kansans.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

800 SW Jackson, Suite 1120
Topeka, KS 66612

785.235.6039 (phone)
785.233.5564 (fax)
ohks@oralhealthkansas.org

www.oralhealthkansas.org