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**Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
SB 31 Neutral
January 30, 2025**

Chair Gossage and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share neutral testimony on SB 31. 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 oral health by shaping policy and educating the public.

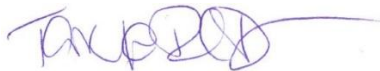
Oral Health Kansas is neutral on SB 31. We have had numerous conversations about the bill and the "20% rule" that would be eliminated if the bill were to pass, and we wanted to share issues we have been thinking about regarding eliminating the 20% rule.

As the consumer oral health advocacy organization, we know it is important to ensure that all Kansans have access to comprehensive oral health care. We receive frequent calls from consumers asking for help in finding a dentist. The majority of the calls come from families of people with disabilities, people who are covered by Medicaid, and people who live in rural areas.

There are some dental service organizations operating in Kansas, but they primarily have offices in larger areas like Wichita, Topeka, and the Kansas City area. Under the proposed legislation, there is no way to guarantee any new dental offices opening in the state would locate in the underserved communities, especially in rural areas. There also is no way to guarantee the new dental offices would be Medicaid providers. Some of the dental service organizations have a national policy of not accepting Medicaid.

It is not clear that eliminating the 20% rule in order to open up the market for more dental offices would achieve the goal of getting more consistent access to dental care for the most underserved communities, including rural communities and people covered by Medicaid.

Sincerely,



Tanya Dorf Brunner
Executive Director
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