



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
ON SB 49

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 49, which creates a new level of dental practitioner: Registered Dental Practitioner.

The KAC Legislative Policy Committee, composed of county commissioners representing all regions of Kansas, plus other county officials, visited with the Kansas Dental Project about this legislation. After review and analysis, our Legislative Policy Committee determined that our association would support this legislation because it provides dental care to areas of Kansas that greatly need dental care and are short on dentists. We also believe the legislation will bring jobs to rural Kansas.

RDPs are intended to provide routine and preventative care. They would be required to pass a clinical exam after obtaining advanced education and training, and must be supervised by a dentist. A similar arrangement has been successful between physicians and nurse practitioners. Kansas counties believe RDPs will bring a much needed component of public health to our communities – dental and oral health.

Recently Governor Sam Brownback lauded Kansas small business at the annual Small Business Day event. This legislation goes right to the issue of increasing the presence of small businesses in Kansas. SB 49 will allow small dental businesses to expand and grow, while extending much needed services to Kansas communities.

I appreciate the opportunity to support SB 49.

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