

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 3:35 p.m. on March 18, 2002 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Mary Pilcher Cook (A)  
Annie Kuether (E)  
Joe McLeland (E)  
Ralph Tanner (A)  
Valdenia Winn (A)

Committee staff present: Paul West, Legislative Research  
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research  
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes  
Dee Ann Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Kevin Robertson, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Association

Others attending: See attached list.

**SB 333 - State board of regents, agreements with certain dental students**

Chairperson Benlon opened the hearing on **SB 333**, and called the first proponent, Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association, who testified in support of this proposed legislation. He told the Committee that this bill was drafted late last session so it was a hold over bill. He said it would require students who enroll in dental school using seats guaranteed by the State of Kansas to return to practice in Kansas for a period of time equal to the number of years they were enrolled. He stated that the number of dentists in Kansas was decreasing.

Mr. Robertson explained that since Kansas does not have a School of Dentistry, the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education have entered into an agreement whereby the UMKC School of Dentistry accepts a total of 80 Kansas students in their dental, dental specialty, and dental hygiene programs. He said in return the University of Kansas and Kansas State University provide 491 architecture and engineering seats to Missouri students at in-state tuition. Mr. Robertson stated this was a scholarship bill without the scholarship, and it would allow the state to collect money from dental students who choose not to return to Kansas after being in one of the programs the state has an agreement with for out-of-state dental school. He said they would have to pay back to the State of Kansas the difference between the in-state tuition they paid being in the program and the out-of-state tuition that they would have had to pay. His written testimony showed the approximate dollar amounts that could be repaid by students who chose not to work in Kansas after graduation.  
(Attachment 1)

Mr. Robertson testified that **SB 333** would allow the state to recoup funds from students who had benefitted by attending dental school at reduced tuition, but it also created an incentive for students to practice in Kansas. He also explained why the number of dentists are decreasing in the state as well as all over the United States. He stated that UMKC was increasing its dental class size from 86 to 100, which would result in an increase of approximately 13 to 20 Kansas students being accepted each year. He concluded his testimony by requesting that Section 5 be amended by deleting 2002-03 and adding 2003-04 since the bill was held over from the 2001 Legislative Session.

The Chair asked why Kansas got 80 dental seats at UMKC, and in turn Missouri gets 491 seats in Kansas. Mr. Robertson replied that he could not answer that question fully since he had never been involved in that part of the negotiations, but thought it was due to the negotiations between the Kansas Board of Regents and the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education in regard to the value Missouri placed on those seats. Dick Carter and Joe Emmons, representing the KBOR, explained how it is equated out based on the cost of the dental seats. They also communicated that the current contract was under review.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

General questions and discussion followed regarding how many of the 491 seats were being used, and if Missouri did not have the programs that Kansas could offer. Representative Wells referred to the next to last paragraph of page 1 of Mr. Robertson's written testimony regarding **SB 333** not creating more money as a scholarship to students, etc., and asked if there was anything currently in place to recoup the tuition from out-of-state students upon graduation. Mr. Robertson responded that there was not. Representative Sloan asked for clarification on the change of date requested.

Chairperson Benlon called for any other proponents, and seeing none she asked if there were any opponents. There being none to appear before the Committee, she closed the hearing on **SB 333**. The Chair asked Dick Carter, KBOR, if he would like to say a few words as a neutral party as to the Board's position on this bill. Mr. Carter explained that this was a Senate bill service type program, and the money does not come with it but the commitment does of administering and tracking this program. He shared with the Committee members what KBOR was looking into as far as the dental seats available and why they are not being filled. He commented that the percentage rate indicated on the payback might not actually be as high as 15%. Diane Lindeman, Director for Student Financial Aid, KBOR, also clarified information on the adjustable percentage rate. Mr. Carter stated that the various programs have different paybacks, and some of the programs such as the Osteopath Program has more payback than the Teachers Scholarship Program since most teachers stay in the state after graduation.

Committee discussion and questions continued regarding the actual administrative costs to KBOR, explanation of the Supplemental Note, varying numbers of Kansas students each year, and the number of Kansas students in each type of program.

Mr. Robertson further commented that all the students will be in general dentistry until such time when they graduate. He explained that dentistry is sort of the opposite of the physical sciences in that they have roughly 80% of the dentists are general dentists and 20% are specialists whereas with physical healthcare it was approximately 20% were general practitioners and 80% were specialists. He stated that most of those students graduating do enter the workforce at the end of their four year dental program, and that Kansas needed more pediatric dentists, endodontists, and all the specialities in the state of Kansas. He said that UMKC had told them they would be increasing the size of their classes from 86 to 100 beginning over a two year phase in 2003-04. He added that they had verbally agreed to increase the number of Kansas students, but there was not a formal agreement on that.

Chairperson Benlon closed the hearing on **SB 333**. The Chair directed the Committee's attention to the minutes for the February 20, February 25, and March 6 meetings which had been distributed to the members earlier the previous week. Representative Storm made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Horst, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee will be On Call of the Chair.





KANSAS DENTAL ASSOCIATION

March 18, 2002

To: House Committee on Higher Education

From: Kevin J. Robertson, CAE  
Executive Director

Re: **Hearing on SB 333 – Dental Seats**

Chairperson Benlon and members of the Committee I am Kevin Robertson, executive director of the Kansas Dental Association which represents about 80% of Kansas' practicing dentists. I am here today to testify in support of SB 333, which would require students who enroll in dental school using seats guaranteed by the state of Kansas to return to practice in Kansas for a period of time equal to the number of years they were enrolled.

SB 333 is similar in concept to underserved scholarships that are currently in place for other healthcare providers and provisions of the bill do mirror them, however, SB 333 is NOT a scholarship bill.

Kansas does not have a school of dentistry. The Kansas Board of Regents and the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education have entered into an agreement whereby the UMKC School of Dentistry accepts a total of 80 Kansas students in their dental, dental specialty, and dental hygiene programs. In return, the University of Kansas and Kansas State University provide 491 architecture and engineering seats to Missouri students at in-state tuition. Each school year, UMKC enrolls about 52-55 Kansas residents (11-13 per class) in the four-year doctor of dental surgery (DDS) program and dental specialty training programs. The balance is enrolled in the dental hygiene program. The in-state (Missouri) tuition that these students pay is about \$15,000/year versus \$30,000/year out-of-state tuition that would be paid by the students if this agreement was not in place.

We know all the Kansas students taking advantage of this agreement and graduating from UMKC are not returning to Kansas. UMKC reports that 69 Kansas students have graduated from the dental school with DDS degrees over the past five years. Of those, 48 (69%) are currently practicing dentistry in Kansas, only 15 (22%) are located in a county other than Johnson, Sedgwick, Wyandotte, Shawnee, or Douglas. According to the most recent estimated census for Kansas 56% of the state's population falls outside these counties.

SB 333 does not create more money as a scholarship to students. Instead, it allows the state to recoup funds from students who have benefited by attending dental school at reduced tuition if they do not return to practice in Kansas for a period equal to the number of years they were in school. At the same time SB 333 creates an incentive for the students to practice in Kansas.

Why is this necessary? Kansas needs more dentists! The number of dentists in Kansas, particularly in rural Kansas is decreasing. This is largely due to four factors: the increasing age of Kansas dentists, the total number of dentists being trained nationwide has decreased, the number of dental school seats available for Kansas residents is not replacing retiring dentists, and the location of dental schools are largely in urban centers.

5200 Huntoon  
Topeka, Kansas 66604-2398  
785-272-7360

House Higher Education Committee  
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The number of dentists being trained in the U.S. has decreased dramatically over the past 20 years due to the closing of a number of dental schools and the reduction of dental school class sizes. In fact, the number of dental school graduates decreased by 27.2% from a high of 5,550 in 1981 to 4,041 in 1998. The large number of dental school graduates during the 1970s was largely the result of federal money provided to dental schools to increase the dentist population. Following the withdrawal of the federal money and an over abundance of dentists throughout the 1980s, many schools drastically reduced their class sizes. In our area, the UMKC School of Dentistry reduced its class size from 160 to 78 before increasing to its current 86 in 1999. In addition, the University of Missouri at St. Louis School of Dentistry closed its doors. Persons having graduated from these larger dental school classes are now reaching retirement age.

UMKC is increasing its dental class size from 86 to 100. Dean Michael Reed has stated publicly that the increase in class size will result in an increase from approximately 13 to 20 Kansas students being accepted per year. Since there is not a formal agreement stating this, we must accept this information with some reservation. Within the past two years the KDA has been approached by Creighton University in Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Tennessee about entering a formal agreement for Kansas students. The KDA is eager for the Kansas Board of Regents to pursue additional arrangements for dental seats, and SB 333 would apply to any such agreements.

Due to SB 333 being held over from the 2001 Legislative Session, the KDA would ask that Section 5 be amended by deleting 2002-03 and adding **2003-04**.

Thank you for your time. I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.