

Date: February 8, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Kevin J. Robertson, CAE
Executive Director

RE: Testimony on SB 103 – Kansas Dental Practice Act

Chairman Gossage and members of the committee I am Kevin Robertson, executive director of the Kansas Dental Association (KDA) representing the state's nearly 1,600 licensed dentists. Thanks for the opportunity to discuss with you the Kansas Dental Associations' thoughts on SB 103.

From the KDA's perspective, the 20% rule provides dentist accountability to all their patients by requiring them to be physically present in all the practices they own at least 20% of the time dentistry is being performed. As a result, the KDA is neutral with regard to removing this 20% rule provisions.

The KDA, however, appreciates the Association of Dental Support Organizations (ADSO) bringing this issue to us and accepting the KDA's proposed patient protection language which we believe can adequately replace the 20% rule by, among other things, creating transparency of dental practice ownership and emergency contact information for patients and holding dentist owners and supervisors accountable to the Kansas Dental Board. Specifically, the bill would:

- Require all dental offices to provide ownership and emergency contact information to all patients upon their request. In this way a patient can better seek information and gain access to an owner or supervising dentist with general or emergency questions or comments regarding their dental care;
- Hold dentist practice owners and supervising clinic dentists accountable for directing inappropriate dental care or actions of their associates, employee or subordinate dentists, and;
- Not allow any dentist to require their patients to sign an agreement restricting the patient's ability to file a complaint against them with the Kansas Dental Board. This is not a widespread issue, but the KDA is aware of dental entities who require their patients to sign such agreements and vehemently oppose such requirements.

With these new patient protection provisions in place, the KDA **supports** SB 103.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.