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**Senate Government Efficiency Committee
SB 161 Opponent
February 11, 2025**

Chair Erickson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in opposition to SB 161. 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.

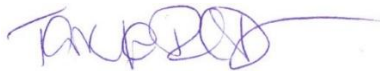
Oral Health Kansas is concerned about the effect of this bill on the state's Medicaid program. Medicaid state plan amendments are a routine part of running the Medicaid program, and this legislation limits the flexibility and responsiveness of KDHE to address the pressing needs of Medicaid members.

When the Legislature approves changes to the Medicaid program or funding changes, KDHE must submit state plan amendments to CMS to enact those changes. If KDHE would be required to seek additional legislative approval for the state plan amendments, the nimbleness of the Medicaid program will be dramatically curtailed. By requiring explicit legislative approval for each waiver or program change, we risk delaying essential services and potentially leaving thousands without access to needed care in a timely manner.

This bill adds barriers to ensuring health care and dental care access for Kansans. It limits the ability of KDHE to act swiftly and effectively to respond to federal changes or address urgent needs, making it harder for the state to improve the well-being of our residents.

As the consumer oral health advocacy organization, we know it is important to ensure that all Kansans have access to comprehensive oral health care. The Medicaid program is an important part of the dental community in Kansas, and we stand ready to ensure the program is as nimble and responsive as possible to people with Medicaid coverage, especially people with disabilities, older adults, and children.

Thank you for your consideration,



Tanya Dorf Brunner
Executive Director
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