



Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association

a constituent of the American Dental Hygienists' Association

**Testimony of the Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association
Submitted by Ron Gaches, legislative counsel
Regarding HB 2631: Extended Care Permit 3
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Wednesday, March 7, 2012**

The Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association endorses and supports the creation of the Dental Hygienists Extended Care Permit 3 as proposed in House Bill 2631. The provisions of this proposal were discussed and agreed to by the Kansas Dental Association and Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association. The KDHA would actually be supportive of a more expansive scope of service for the ECP 3, but this is an excellent start to extending the services of the ECP practitioner in ways to address some of the unmet oral health needs of many Kansans.

Kansas has become a national leader in utilizing the services of the Registered Dental Hygienists workforce to address oral health needs through previous adoption of the ECP I and ECP 2 authorizations. These RDH practitioners have effectively extended the reach of the dental workforce and ensured that more Kansans are evaluated and treated by Kansas dentists. Authorization for the ECP 3 will expand the reach of this collaborative dental practice utilizing the skills of both hygienists and dentists. Looking further, KDHA also urges your consideration of the Registered Dental Practitioner proposal contained in Senate Bill 192. The RDP proposal is an extension of the current Extended Care Practitioner program, creating a true mid-level oral health practitioner that relies on the existing education foundation of a Registered Dental Hygienists with the addition of extensive additional formal studies and clinical experience.