

February 24, 2015

RE: House Bill 2079

Chairman Dan Hawkins and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

Did you know that 95 counties in the state of Kansas do not have enough dental providers to meet their residents' needs? This is why I believe in the Registered Dental Practitioner model. Having a mid-level provider such as a nurse practitioner has helped to expand the medical field to support those patients in need. Why not expand it in the dental field to help as well?

There has been a lot of misinformation on how the RDP will be trained and what their job will be. An RDP would be under the general supervision of a dentist, similar to Extended Care Permit hygienists, which is already a working model in our state. Our goal is to not take away from the dentist, but to work with them to support patients in a state where access to care is a major issue. Every hygienist will have to show competence in patient assessment, oral anatomy and physiology, pharmacology and a variety of clinical procedures through written and clinical licensure testing. Some procedures that an RDP will be able to provide are non-surgical extraction of baby teeth and very loose teeth, placement of temporary crowns, and basic restorations such as one surface fillings.

Thank you for taking the time to read why I believe the Registered Dental Practitioner would be a great asset to the dental field. We need to work together to reach the population in need.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McCord, RDH, BSDH

Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association Vice President

Lenexa, Kansas