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**Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
February 1, 2018**

Chairwoman Schmidt and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of SB 312. 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 dental health by shaping policy and educating the public so Kansans know that all mouths matter. We achieve our mission through advocacy, public awareness and education. Oral Health Kansas has over 1,400 supporters, including dentists, dental hygienists, educators, safety net clinics, charitable foundations, and advocates for children, people with disabilities and older Kansans.

We see three types of barriers to accessing oral health in our state: access to a payment source; access to a provider; and willingness to access services. A variety of approaches to all three types of access must be present in order for all people to have adequate access to oral health care. With our partners in the oral health field, we are working to address each of these through a variety of means.

Oral Health Kansas recognizes the need to expand and strengthen the dental workforce in Kansas and supports the efforts being undertaken to address this issue through SB 312. Oral Health Kansas is dedicated to collaboration. As such, we are encouraged to see collaboration on a model that works best to meet the oral health needs of all Kansans.

Oral Health Kansas also recognizes that, without a payment source for dental care, no number of new providers can fulfill Kansans' unmet dental needs. As the committee reviews SB 312, we encourage you to work with legislative colleagues on the recommendation to the 2018 Legislature from the Robert G (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight. The committee recommended comprehensive dental benefits for adults be included in KanCare 2.0.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 312. We urge the Committee to vote in favor of it.