

Date: March 19, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Kevin J. Robertson, CAE
Executive Director

RE: Neutral on HB 2674 – Telehealth (Written Only)

Chairman Schmidt and members of the committee I am Kevin Robertson, executive director of the Kansas Dental Association (KDA) representing the 1,158 KDA members. Thanks for the opportunity to discuss with you the Kansas Dental Associations' thoughts on HB 2674.

There are exciting developments in remote dental outreach. The KDHE Bureau of Oral Health is currently putting the finishing touches on a grant application to conduct a pilot teledentistry program with the Advanced Education in General Education (AEGD) and dental hygiene education programs at Wichita State University. In addition, the use of teledentistry linkages between dental offices and rural locations are being used to increase dental access in other states.

It is important to note that teledentistry does not take the place of direct supervision for monitoring dental personnel, however, there are many opportunities where the use of teledentistry would expand the use of offsite diagnosis and authorization to enhance and expand the use of both ECP III dental hygienists working outside a dental office. The KDA asks that the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare consider amending HB 2674 by adding "dentist" to the definition of healthcare provider found in section 1 of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts regarding HB 2674.