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**House Taxation Committee
Proponent for HB 2461
February 7, 2022**

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of HB 2461. 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.

HB 2461 will allow Kansans to purchase hygiene products without paying sales tax. This is a valuable step forward for our state, as hygiene products are something each of us needs on a daily basis, but they are not always affordable for low-income Kansans.

We were pleased to see that dental floss and toothpaste were included in the list of products that would be exempt from sales tax. We respectfully ask the Committee to include toothbrushes on that list as well. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss are basic tools everyone needs every day. Unfortunately, they can be luxuries for many families. In fact, they are not even allowable purchases under SNAP benefits. Making them sales tax exempt would make it easier for families to ensure each member of the family has a toothbrush and toothpaste to use every day.

It is vital to remove the food and bacteria that collect on our teeth each day. Daily brushing with fluoridated toothpaste and flossing in between teeth are the hallmarks for disease prevention. **We encourage the Committee to support HB 2461 and add toothbrushes to the list of tax-exempt items.** Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tanya Dorf Brunner
Executive Director
tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org

