



KANSAS

DEPARTMENT ON AGING
KATHY GREENLEE, ACTING SECRETARY

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**Testimony on SB 176
to
The Public Health and Welfare Committee**

Kansas Department on Aging

Feb. 7, 2007

Sen. Barnett and members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee; the Kansas Department on Aging appreciates the opportunity to express its support for SB 176 to allow dental hygienists to provide care to seniors in expanded settings.

A 2003 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report found that approximately 30 percent of adults 65 years and older were without teeth. The report also noted that the percent of seniors without teeth was higher for those seniors living in poverty.

KDOA recognizes that good oral health is critical to good overall health and is pleased that the Governor included in her 2007 budget an enhancement to provide dental services to seniors receiving benefits under the HCBS/FE waiver. In addition, her budget includes funding for dentures for HCBS/FE waiver recipients.

Expanded funding for dental services for the frail, elderly seniors combined with the provisions of SB 176 to allow dental hygienists to visit the seniors in congregate settings will help thousands of seniors receive the dental care they so badly need.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support and KDOA encourages the committee to pass SB 176.

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