



January 21, 2022

The Honorable Richard Hilderbrand
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW Tenth Street Room 142-S
Topeka, KS

RE: Senate Bill 121 Teledentistry – Oppose

Dear Chairman Hilderbrand and the Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Byte, I write to respectfully express our opposition to SB 121 as currently drafted.

At Byte, we are on a mission to make the inaccessible, accessible. Byte provides customers access to safe and affordable at-home clear aligner treatments through a nationwide network of experienced dentists and orthodontists. Each treatment plan is prescribed and overseen by a dentist or orthodontist who is licensed in the customer's state of residence.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and exacerbated existing inequities in access to general and specialty oral health care—especially, among Kansans who live in rural parts of the state. Fortunately, technological advances in orthodontic treatments have enabled dentists or orthodontists to reach traditionally underserved communities and provide safe and effective dental care. However, as drafted, SB 121 would effectively undo that progress.

Specifically, this bill would require a dentist practicing teledentistry to review radiographs for treatment of malocclusions and if the radiographs are older than six months, the dentist would be required to order new ones. Byte is concerned that SB 121 would:

- (i) impose artificial barriers to access without clinical justification,
- (ii) unnecessarily increase costs for Kansans, and
- (iii) undermine the clinical judgment of Kansas-licensed dental professionals.

Moreover, these provisions would impose a de facto in-person visit requirement that would create an oral health care environment that prioritizes protecting the interests of established brick-and-mortar practices over expanding patient choice and access to dental and orthodontic services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. In the interest of increasing access to affordable, quality dental care for all Kansans, we respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider SB 121.

If you have any questions regarding our opposition to SB 121, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley B. Kim".

Shirley B. Kim
Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations