

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on February 1, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Praeger (EA)

Committee staff present: Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department
Mr. Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Ms. Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mr. Kevin Robertson, Executive Director, KS Dental Board
Dr. Steve Haught, President, Kansas Dental Board
Dr. Roger Rupp, President, Kansas Dental Association
Ms. Leah Sperry, Dental Assistant, Garden City
Dr. Ted Maple, Ulysses
Ms. Melanie Mitchell, Dental Assistant Program Specialist,
Wichita Area Technical College
Ms. Natalie Eastman, RDH, Wichita
Dr. Jeff Stasch, Garden City
Dr. Rita Burnett, Kansas City

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

Continued Hearing on SB50 -elimination of the dental assistant sunset provision.

Upon calling the meeting to order Chairperson Wagle reminded the Committee that at the end of yesterday's meeting, Senator Salmans had the floor and as time was short, his questions would be heard today. Senator Salmans directed his question to Mr. Ron Gaches, Lobbyist for the Kansas Dental Hygienists Association. Senator Salmans stated he was left yesterday with the impression that there is a triage, a three-tier level of progression of knowledge. He asked what would happen if it is not available in a rural town. Mr. Gaches responded that the dentist's office is reimbursed whether the work is performed by a dental hygienist or an assistant. With that business aside, the Chair called upon the proponents of **SB 50**.

Mr. Kevin Robertson, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Board was the first proponent conferee to come before the Committee. Mr. Robertson stated that the bill came to the Committee as a recommendation from the Health Care Reform Legislative Oversight Committee. A written copy of his testimony is (Attachment #1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

The next proponent to speak was Dr. Steve Haught, President, Kansas Dental Board, who stated the bill had the support of the Board, emphasizing that: the programs of training are in line with the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), he had participated in the training at Emporia, and that the Board has been vigilant in investigations of reported violations against noncertified providers of the supra -gingival scaling. A copy of his testimony and handouts are (Attachment #2 and 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Dr. Roger Rupp, President, Kansas Dental Association gave proponent testimony regarding the shortages of hygienists, the KDS efforts, the Kansas Hygiene Programs enrollments and graduates, and the information provided to the Kansas Legislature as shown in Attachment #3. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment #4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

The next proponent to come before the Committee was Ms. Leah Sperry, Dental Assistant, Garden City, whose testimony was based on her 16 years as a dental assistant in a rural town. She provided information on her town, employment environment, and the impact of the sunset date not being lifted (i.e., patients driving up to four hours for an appointment). A written copy of Ms. Sperry's presentation is (Attachment #5) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

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Dr. Ted Maple, Ulysses, was the next conferee to give proponent testimony to the Committee. His presentation was similar to Ms. Sperry's in that he related his 30-year experience as a dentist in a rural town. A written copy of his testimony is (Attachment #6) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

With four more proponent testimonies to go, the Chair called Ms. Melanie Mitchell, Dental Assistant Program Specialist, Wichita Area Technical College. Ms. Mitchell gave an overview on the supra-gingival scaling course, eligibility pathways, and student curriculum. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment #7) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Ms. Natalie Eastman, Registered Dental Hygienist from Wichita, gave her history growing up in a rural community, became a hygienist, and did not remain in the rural environment. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment #8) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Dr. Jeff Stasch from Garden City was the next to testify. He presented information on how a practice in a rural community in Kansas is so different from in a more populated area. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment #9) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Last but not least, written proponent testimony was presented for Dr. Rita Burnett, Kansas City who was ill. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 10) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Chairperson Wagle then requested comments or questions from the Committee. Senators Salmans, Harrington, Steineger and Haley asked questions of Mr. Kevin Robertson, and Dr. Steve Haught ranging from violations on fines, how complaints are worked, received, etc., to why the decrease in seats in schools.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2001.