

Dental Care for Kansans

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Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare,

My name is Charley Twietmeyer and I am a dentist in Wichita, KS. I have had the honor of working in the same practice since 2016 when I graduated dental school. During that period of time I have been given the opportunity to provide quality dental care to thousands of patients. To me, these individuals are not just names on a roster that I provide care for. They are real people with real feelings, and let's be honest, not everyone really enjoys going to the dentist. In all healthcare - but especially dentistry - developing meaningful relationships built on trust and communication is vital. Seeing the same dentist and same staff members year after year allows for patients to feel comfortable seeking care. This is why I feel very strongly that ***SB103 is not in the best interests of the great people of Kansas.***

SB103 seeks to eliminate the protections that patient's currently have. By ensuring that the owner dentist is physically at the practice at least 20% of the time, there is better oversight to patient focused care. SB103 has tried to make itself "look good" by adding language and special requirements for dental offices. Guess what? These things are already being done by the large majority of offices. Our dental license is proudly hung on the wall. We have phone numbers listed for emergency situations. None of that is new.

The last part of SB103 that I take significant concern with is the addition of language that would allow enforcement against an owner dentist if he or she "directed or pressured another dentist... to perform dentistry that fails to

adhere to the applicable standard of care”. The problem with this lies in the ownership of corporate dental offices. These large corporations are run by business people, not dentists. If the dental practice owner is a corporation that is directing its employees to do more of certain types of expensive procedures, where will the enforcement come? **SB103 does not ensure protections against** this kind of “upselling” of dentistry.

Employees and dentists who work in corporate dental offices tend to not stay there for long periods of time. Ultimately who is hurt by this? The patients.

I would love to speak with each and every member of the committee to answer any further questions you have about dentistry. For the reasons i’ve outlined above and many more we can go into further detail about, I encourage you to **oppose SB103** to help ensure the highest level of care for Kansans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charley Twietmeyer