

Senators-

My name is Aaron Huslig and I am a dentist residing and practicing in Andover Ks. Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony today in opposition to SB 129.

The American Dental Association Principles of Ethics and Code of Conduct state, "The dental profession holds a special position of trust within society. As a consequence, society affords the profession certain privileges that are not available to members of the public-at-large. In return, the profession makes a commitment to society that its members will adhere to high ethical standards of conduct."

Over the last several years various out of state foundations have supported the development of a mid-level oral health care provider for citizens of Kansas. A multitude of reasons have been given why Kansans "need" a mid-level provider. Out of respect for your time, I will avoid recapping their specific reasons. You're welcome! : )

There are several reasons mid-levels are a terrible idea for the citizens of our state. Out of several, I will focus your attention on one reason- patient safety.

The proponents of SB 129 would like mid-levels to perform "simple extractions." I smile as I type that! I feel a sense of euphoria when I perform a "simple" extraction. Extractions cannot be deemed simple, moderately challenging, or difficult until after the surgery has ended. The teeth I remove typically express severe disease. Sometimes these "simple" extractions become complicated surgical procedures. I have the knowledge, the skillset, and the correct instruments to successfully complete procedures that may appear simple and become quite complex.

"Oral-antral communication" is a term used when we remove a tooth and discover a hole in our patient's sinus. It is an unfortunate (and quite bloody) situation, but it happens. I understand the complexity of the procedure required to correct this deviation from the original plan. Do you think a "mid-level provider" will understand what they need to do? Neither do I.

Patient safety should be the first priority of proponents and opponents of this bill. Dentists have undergone extensive academic rigors to protect our patients. We recited the Hippocratic Oath ("First, do no Harm") as first year students and continue to abide by it today. I can't say I have heard anything from proponents that makes me feel comfortable they are concerned about patient safety.

Finally, I want to thank you for reading my testimony and (more importantly) having the desire and courage to serve the state as elected representatives of our communities. Your commitment to improving our state is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Aaron A Husling, DDS

