



# HECHLER ORTHODONTICS

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SPECIALIZING IN ORTHODONTICS FOR ADULT & CHILDREN

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I am Steven Hechler, an orthodontist in Overland Park, Kansas. I am speaking in support of Senate Bill No. 121 relating to dental regulations for safe care of the citizens of Kansas.

My background includes undergraduate studies at the University of Mo. at Columbia prior to obtaining my dental degree after 4 years of dental school at UMKC School of Dentistry. I then pursued a 36 month training residency in orthodontics at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota obtaining a certificate and masters degree. The Kansas Dental Association has allowed me to serve in a number of officer positions ending as president. I have had the great fortune of practicing for 35 years in Kansas as a board certified orthodontist and member of the American Association of Orthodontists, College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontists, American Dental Association, Kansas Dental Association, Kansas Association of Orthodontists (past president).

My orthodontist colleagues in Kansas feel the patients of Kansas deserve an expected standard of care when considering orthodontic tooth movement. Careful examination and professional diagnosis supply an important beginning to their journey toward a healthy and predictable smile and bite. This requires not only a thorough oral exam performed personally by the dental professional but current radiographs (x-rays) to be certain there is no decay (cavities), gum and bone disease (periodontal disease) or tooth root resorption (shortening) that would affect or negate the possibility of starting orthodontic tooth movement. Any of these issues could lead to tooth loss during or after the treatment. A good number of Invisalign patients have been previously treated by braces when younger and did not comply with suggested retainer wear. If these patients have no current radiographs displaying the occasional significantly shortened roots (root resorption) from that stint of braces, further tooth movement can lead to loss of teeth. My personal experience with do-it-yourself home treatment

patients is that they are younger adults who have been promised a less expensive way to regain straight teeth. They are never turned away by the commercial companies (we turn away about 50% of those who request Invisalign type of treatment in our office) and some who later make their way to our office are very disappointed with their do-it-yourself experience.

Periodic ongoing appointments during treatment in the dentist/orthodontist's office are needed to monitor the progress and make sure none of the above-mentioned problems arise during treatment. Drinking soda and sports drinks while wearing Invisalign type of trays can lead to demineralizing and discoloration of the tooth enamel resulting in decay. Rarely during orthodontic tooth movement, excessive movement of the teeth can lead to loss of bone and gum tissue that can be irreversible.

The standard of care in our profession is to take a few radiographs and photographs along with retainer observation after orthodontic treatment is complete. This observation lasts for months or years after treatment. With no dental professional on board in do-it-yourself home treatment, there is no way for the Kansas patient to know disease or trouble is present.

Having a personal responsibility to our patients by being available for urgent or emergency questions along with the Kansas Dental Board required displaying our professional licenses gives Kansans the piece of mind in knowing a trained professional is on their side. No Kansas patient should be required to "sign off" on their legal ability to hold the licensed professional to the standard of care expected of their dentist/orthodontist by the Kansas Dental Board as is in some agreements with the above-mentioned treatment. The patients have no orthodontic training or knowledge and thus the state legislature has a Dental Board charged with the responsibility of protecting them.

For these reasons, I and my colleagues would highly recommend that you consider passing Senate bill number 121 to help protect the dental health of the Kansas citizens you represent.