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Kansas Action for Children
Testimony for Health and Human Services Committee Hearing on HB2372

Chairman Crum and members of the Committee,

Kansas Action for Children appreciates the opportunity to share our concerns today about the proposed legislation. As part of Kansas Action for Children's efforts to ensure all Kansas children grow up healthy, we have reviewed the scientific research about the impact of fluoride on children and have found strong consensus in support of community water fluoridation.

Dental decay is the leading chronic illness in children

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in children. We know that preventive care early in life is the key to mitigating this debilitating condition. One of the best ways to prevent dental decay is drinking fluoridated water. The fluoride makes developing teeth more resistant to decay. In fact, research shows that fluoride can reduce tooth decay in children by about 25 percent.

Health professionals overwhelmingly support community water fluoridation

Fluoride is safe and effective for children. Thousands of respected studies have confirmed this, and all major national health organizations endorse community water fluoridation. Millions of children across the country have been drinking fluoridated water for years and the result is a decline in cavities and decay.

Community fluoridation saves money

According to the Centers for Disease Control, every \$1 spent on community fluoridation saves approximately \$38 in future expenses for dental care. Community water fluoridation is the least expensive and most effective way for Kansas children to benefit from fluoride, a naturally occurring mineral.

To protect the health of Kansas children, we urge the committee to support community water fluoridation for all Kansans and to reject House Bill 2372.

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