



Partners in America's Poverty Fighting Network

TESTIMONY ON HB 2372

Provided by Tawny Stottlemire, Executive Director

WATER FLOURIDATION PROMOTES ECONOMIC SECURITY IN KANSAS

The Kansas Association of Community Action Programs (KACAP) is a membership organization representing the 720,000 Kansans who, on a daily basis, experience economic insecurity. Guided by the eight Community Action Agencies in our state, KACAP is a voice for the low and moderate income people of our state.

Water fluoridation provides legitimate, scientifically proven benefits to all Kansans, and particularly to those without access to regular, affordable, preventative dental care. 95 of Kansas' 105 counties don't have enough dental providers. Thirteen counties don't have any dentists at all, and 37 counties lack a dental provider that accepts KanCare. Fluoridated water is an especially important preventative measure for the thousands of Kansans lacking access to dental care. Children living in lower income communities are primary beneficiaries of fluoridated water.

Additionally, considerable, reliable research is readily available to confront and disprove claims that fluoridated water supplies have any adverse effects on community residents. The benefits of growing up in a community with fluoridation help protect a child's teeth for a lifetime. Oral health and wellness are important facets of success in school, work, and community life.

On behalf of the Kansans who experience proven benefits and no proven ill effects from fluoridation, KACAP urges Kansas policy makers to show unified and unwavering support for local water supply fluoridation and to refrain from furthering false public perceptions with regard to this important public health advancement.

KACAP Member Agencies and Board of Directors

City of Wichita – Career Development Office

Community Action, Inc.

East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation

Economic Opportunity Foundation

Harvest America Corporation

Mid-Kansas Community Action Program

Northeast Kansas Community Action Program

Southeast Kansas Community Action Program