

**Date:** February 19, 2014

**To:** House Committee on Health and Human Services

**From:** Greg Hill, Assistant Executive Director

**Re:** HB 2372

I am Greg Hill, Assistant Executive Director of the Kansas Dental Association, representing 1,250 dentists or about 75% of the state's licensed dentists. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to explain why the KDA opposes House Bill 2372.

Since community water fluoridation began in Grand Rapids, Michigan in the 1940's, millions of Americans have benefited from a reduction in tooth decay. Today, more than 204 million Americans benefit from community water fluoridation and in Kansas, 63.6% receive this natural cavity fighter.

Community water fluoridation is recognized by countless well-respected health organizations you know and trust for your medical and health care, including the American Dental Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the United States Surgeon General.

Why community water fluoridation?

- For most cities, every \$1 invested in water fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs – [http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact\\_sheets/cost.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact_sheets/cost.htm)
- Medicaid enrollees in less fluoridated areas need 33-percent more fillings, root canals and extraction than those where fluoridated water was more prevalent. *Public Health Reports*, (September-October 2010) Vol. 125, No. 5, 647-54
- The national savings from water fluoridation totals \$3.84 billion each year. *-Florida Journal of Environmental Health*, Vol. 191, Dec. 2005

The Kansas Dental Association believes that HB 2372 would provide false information; specifically that community water fluoridation lowers the IQ in children.

Good public policy means evaluating the preponderance of evidence and making rational decisions based on complete and accurate data, not jumping to irrational conclusions based on flawed data because it happens to give you the result you wish to hear. Evidence that water fluoridation lowers IQ or is any way harmful at levels used in community water fluoridation systems is not based on generally accepted scientific knowledge. It would be wrong to require communities to give false information to their citizens without credible and scientifically valid information. House Bill 2372 would do just that. We therefore oppose HB 2372.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Hill', is positioned above the typed name.

Greg Hill  
Assistant Executive Director  
Kansas Dental Association