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March 24, 2020

The Honorable Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas
300 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Kelly,

As a consumer advocacy organization, Oral Health Kansas is constantly working to improve access to care for Kansans, more than ever during times of crisis. Although many dental offices have closed due to COVID-19, we know there are Kansans still experiencing dental pain. We would encourage you and your administration to support the proposal by the Kansas Dental Association to issue an executive order to temporarily expand telemedicine (commonly referred to as teledentistry) to dentists assessing patients for dental emergencies. There is guidance available from the American Dental Association about how to use teledentistry during the COVID-19 crisis. We believe this executive order should include specific language to allow for the reimbursement of telemedicine by dentists enrolled in the KanCare program.

An expansion of telemedicine to dental providers in our state would have multiple benefits for Kansas. Potential benefits include:

1. Allowing consumers to assess their dental needs in this time of uncertainty
2. Preventing consumers from utilizing overwhelmed emergency departments for their dental care
3. Supporting dental clinics across the state and providing the opportunity to continue bringing in some revenue while their main clinic is closed
4. Providing guidance to dental providers and consumers to ensure oral health is seen as a priority to maintain good overall health

Oral Health Kansas appreciates your strong leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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Copy: Adam Proffitt, Medicaid Director