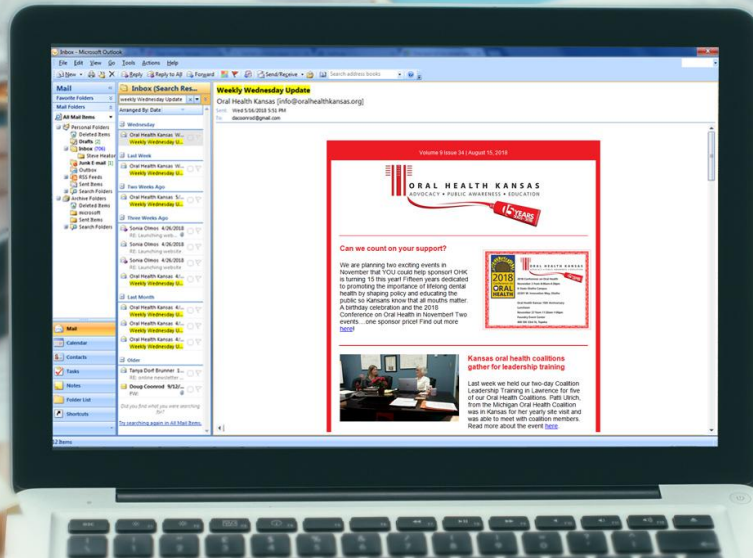




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



## WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

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## Oral Health Kansas History

In honor of our 15th anniversary this year, we designed a historical video about OHK. We want to thank all of our partners who took the time to help with our video. Click [here](#) to view the video. We cannot do the work we do without your support. If you would like to donate to our mission, click [here](#).

# Submit Comments Opposing Changes to Public Charge By Monday

Join Oral Health Kansas in opposing the proposed changes to the public charge designation. The changes would broaden the list of health-related programs considered when determining if someone is likely to become a public charge to include programs such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). As a result of the proposed changes to the definition of public charge, it is estimated that anywhere from 2.1 to 4.9 million people may disenroll from Medicaid or CHIP, programs that are vital to providing oral healthcare to these populations. Additional information can be found [here](#). Use the instructions below to submit your comments opposing the proposed changes. Thank you for your support on this important issue!



Photo by Humphrey Muleba on Unsplash

## **As a community member**

1. **Click** [here](#) to go to the Protecting Immigrant Families Page to submit a comment and for more information on the changes the Administration is proposing to "public charge"
2. **Personalize** the pre-written template, make it your own!
  - Introduce yourself
  - Share why you are writing this letter
  - Explain how public charge will affect you and others in the community
3. **Submit** your comment [here](#)
4. **Share** this action with your friends, family, and colleagues and ask them to do the same. Share on social media using #ProtectFamilies and these [images](#)

## **As an organization or agency**

1. **Download** the [oral health template letter](#)
2. **Personalize** the template letter!
  - Introduce your organization or agency
  - Introduce the communities you serve
  - Include any relevant statistics or citations
  - Share community stories and anecdotes
3. **Submit** the letter and any relevant resources directly to the [Federal Register comment page](#)
4. **Share** this action with your networks and ask them to do the same. Use #ProtectFamilies and the attached [images](#) to share on social media



## Congress Passes Action for Dental Health Legislation

The [ADA](#) reported last week that The Action for Dental Health Act, "legislation aimed at improving oral health and access to oral health care", passed Congress and is headed to President Donald J. Trump, who is expected to sign it into law. With [the bill's passage](#), more organizations will be able to qualify for Health and Human Services (HHS) grants to support activities

that improve oral health through education and dental disease prevention. It will also enable organizations to develop and expand outreach programs that facilitate establishing dental homes for children and adults, including the elderly, blind and disabled. Organizations that will be eligible to receive a grant include dental associations, state or tribal health departments, accredited dental education programs, or non-profit community-based organizations that partner with public and private non-profit entities. The bill also authorized \$13.9 million a year from 2019-2023 to fund grants focused on dental home programs, but this funding will not be guaranteed until the appropriation passes in a budget bill. Representative Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, who introduced the bill stated, "With today's passage of Action for Dental Health, we are sending a message that oral health is a priority for Congress." More information on this bill can found [here](#).

## Resource for Prescribing Pregnant Women Opioids

The [National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center \(OHRC\)](#) released a new resource helpful for dentists prescribing opioids to pregnant women who may need dental procedures during their pregnancy. Pain management can be managed with over the counter medications with less side effects. When opioids are prescribed, various steps should happen such as how each individual handles pain management. Click [here](#) to learn more about Prescribing Opioids for Women of Reproductive Age: Information for Dentists.





## Not sure how to use Silver Diamine Fluoride? Here's how!

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is an option for caries treatment and a noninvasive form of treatment. Not very many dentists have used SDF because of the uncertainty of how to use it properly. Watch this video ["Silver Diamine Fluoride Application: Evidence-based Recommendations"](#), from the American

Dental Association, which walks you step-by-step through the process of applying 38% SDF.



Congratulations to Kevin Robertson on celebrating 20 years as the Executive Director of the Kansas Dental Association this year. During his time at the KDA he led the creation and growth of the annual Kansas Mission of Mercy and has been an

active member of many statewide advocacy teams including Kansas Oral Health Connections.

Kevin is a founding board member of Oral Health Kansas and was a member of the first Dental Champions class.

Congratulations, Kevin!



## Reserve a Sugary Drink Display Today!

What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink display for up to a month. Spots fill up quickly!



**Please note that requests made less than 30 days before the display is needed may not be able to be filled.**

To learn more about our Sugary Drink Display and to reserve one, click [here](#).



Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display?  
Great, email us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) and we'll send you more info!

## Follow Us



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