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**House Health and Human Services Committee
Opponent for HB 2463
January 26, 2022**

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in opposition of HB 2463. My name is Tanya Dorf Brunner, and I am the Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas, Inc. We are the statewide advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the importance of lifelong dental health by shaping policy and educating the public, so Kansans know that all mouths matter.

Language proposed in HB 2463 would limit the flexibility of the KanCare program to meet the needs of its beneficiaries, Kansans who depend on KanCare for their medical and dental needs. This includes stopping the extension of postpartum coverage or adult dental coverage, benefits that could meaningfully increase the access to care needed to maintain healthy and thriving communities in our state.

The current flexibility of the program has allowed the state Medicaid agency to identify gaps and insufficiencies and address those in a timely manner. This includes a recent update to a select few dental reimbursement rates to improve access to dental care for Kansans with disabilities. For this population, dental care can be difficult to access in a typical dental clinic and they may require sedation services only offered in hospitals. The Medicaid reimbursement rate for dental services in a hospital setting had not been increased in two decades and as a result many dentists were unable to provide this service due to their inability to cover the cost of care. In an effort to meet the needs of Kansans, the Division of Health Care Finance increased this rate in January 2022.

The inability to address changes, such as the hospital code, in a timely manner would inhibit the effectiveness of the KanCare program. For that reason, Oral Health Kansas stands in opposition of HB 2463. **We encourage the Committee to stand with us in opposing HB 2463.** Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Oral Health Kansas is happy to assist the Committee, as you continue working to improve the health of Kansas.

Sincerely,

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