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I want to thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to share some of our thoughts about the problems with this bill.

The majority of my 15 employees have been with me well over 20 years. Every once in awhile, one of my dental assistants watches me do a procedure and lets the patient and me know that she could do that root canal or another procedure. We laugh as they watch me do what I do, and because it appears easy, that's why they think they can do it also.

I truly believe that's part of what's happening here.

The Dental Therapy concept has been here in Kansas for 8 or 9 years now.

The President of the KDA, Nick Rogers, is personally against this bill.  
Rob Dakin, the president of the Wichita Dental Society is personally against this bill..  
Vicki Schmidt is personally against this bill.

The only reason this bill has gotten this far is because our leaders felt it was in our best interests to propose this compromise bill. I believe they thought to have acted in our best interests, for whatever mistaken reason motivated them.....

.....but they did it without letting any of the membership know what was going on.

Why?? - because they are "tired" of dealing with this. That's why our leadership compromised and why the Senate voted for it 38-0. Actually, the Senate also approved it, because they thought the dentists in the State of Kansas all were behind this.

- LET ME TELL YOU, THERE IS NOTHING FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH THAN THAT.
- It has always been voted down because it was a bad deal. It's no different now. It's still a bad deal.

What good is this bill going to do??

What do we hope to accomplish with this??

There is no access to care issue here in Kansas.

There is no shortage of dentists in Kansas.

It will do nothing but create more problems.

- 1) the state doesn't have enough money now to spare for this.
- 2) you tell me how these young docs are going to pay their loans back, when you flood the market with more providers.
  - these young docs are the backbone of the profession
  - they've dedicated their lives to a profession that has standards

- and now , with this bill, the state can create a watered down version of dental health care, that seems to be the wave of the future in this country.  
- we are doing our best to create mediocre health care from a system was the best in the world.

I haven't spoken to one person yet that would want to have one of these folks work on them.

- I have personally heard Vicki Schmidt, Rob Dakin, Nick Rogers

Those citizens of Kansas that don't have the finances to pay for this

- 1) doctors all do dentistry for free, because we don't turn these folks away.
- 2) programs like KMOM
  - our office does its own thing every year or so.

Dr. Mark Troilo