

Fluoride-fighting Update # 3 from Kansas

Sent to: (e-mail-merge list)

Friday, February 21, 2014

Hello (Mail-merge List),

This is a 3rd follow-up letter. In case you did not get the previous letters, here is a link to the bill that we are hoping to get passed in the Kansas Legislature, [HB-2372](#). Many see this bill as the first step toward making Kansas the first fluoride-free state in America. The KRA has pledged to stay fully-engaged in the Fluoride-fight until America is Fluoride-free!

Please forward this message to your Fluoride-fighting friends.

UPDATES:

1. The first Committee Hearing on HB-2372 in Topeka, Kansas on February 19th went very well.



Here, FAN Special Projects Director, **Attorney Michael Connett**, speaks to the Kansas House Health and Human Services Committee in Topeka



The Fluoride Fighting Team consisted of **Dr. Charles Hinshaw**, **Attorney Michael Connett**, **Dr. Yolanda Whyte** and **KRA President, Mark Gietzen**

2. However, the opposing side was well organized, well prepared, and presented a spirited resistance. Passing HB-2372 will NOT be easy!
3. The opposition speakers were:
 - a. Dr. Lucynda Raben, DDS, Wichita. In 2012, Dr. Raben tried hard to make Wichita a fluoridated community. She used the same stump-speech that she used in Wichita during the Referendum battle.
 - b. Dr. John Neuberger, PhD; Professor, University of Kansas School of Medicine and Kansas Public Health Association
 - c. Greg Hill, Assistant Executive Director, Kansas Dental Association
 - d. Brian Smith, Board President, Oral Health Kansas, and,
 - e. Christie Appelhanz, Kansas Action for Children
4. While our side focused on the modern science and fluoride facts, those who testified in opposition proceeded as if HB-2372 was a bill designed to harm children and to destroy the dental profession.
5. After the presentations, there were numerous questions from the floor, and it became obvious that this will be a split vote. Some of the questions from legislators were quite harsh in tone, particularly those questions which were directed to **Attorney Michael Connett** and to **Dr. Yolanda Whyte**.
6. **Dr. Yolanda Whyte** is still in Topeka today, and is attempting to meet with and talk to each of the 17 members of the House HHS Committee before leaving.
7. We owe a huge THANK YOU to **Attorney Michael Connett**, **Dr. Yolanda Whyte** and to **Dr. Charles Hinshaw** for the great work that they did, and are doing for passage of this bill.

8. A huge THANKS also, to all who have already donated money to make this progress possible. Here is where we stand from the financial perspective.

a. We have raised a total of \$3'075.00 so far from just 23 people.

b. We spent:

i. \$1'500.00 for half of Yolanda Whyte's costs and fees for coming to testify before the committee.

ii. \$800.00 for written testimony from Declan Waugh.

iii. \$332.58 for lobbyist expenses (*hotel + food + gas + tolls.*)

iv. \$250.75 for printing KFINs for all legislators.

v. \$170.15 for 3-Ring Binders for HHS Committee Members only (*this does not include the printed material inside.*)

vi. \$150.00 for bank fees (*\$125 equip fee + \$25 wire fee*)

vii. \$19.28 for Credit Card discount fees.

c. We still owe:

i. \$?.?? to reimburse FAN for Michael Connett's expenses to attend the committee meeting.

ii. The other half of Yolanda Whyte's costs and fees.

iii. The majority of the printing costs, (*Western Imaging bills monthly.*)

d. We URGENTLY need funds to begin doing radio ads, billboards and other promotional efforts to impact not only the 17 Health and Human Services committee members, but also the entire 125 House members as a whole. (*This should have already started, and is delayed now for lack of funds to move forward. Only YOU can remedy this problem.*)

9. We estimate that we will need about \$25,000 to get this bill through the Kansas House of Representatives. We have raised

only about 12% of that so far. *(The estimated budget details that are in the last update letter and have not changed significantly.)*

That concludes the UPDATES.

Thank you for all that you have already done in the Fluoride-fight. However, if you have not yet done so, please [donate generously](#) so that we can continue to wage the battle, without having to fundraise when we should be lobbying for passage of our bill.

If you want your donated funds "ear-marked" for a specific task, please send that request via e-mail (*just hit reply*).

THANK YOU in advance for your [financial help](#) in this important battle!

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