

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

House Concurrent Resolution No. 25

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5761H.02C

WHEREAS, oral health is a critical component of overall health affecting speech, nutrition, growth and function, social development, employability and productivity, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, dental decay is the most common chronic disease among children - four times more common than asthma, four times more common than early-childhood obesity, and twenty times more common than diabetes; and

WHEREAS, untreated dental disease is linked to adverse health outcomes associated with diabetes, stroke, heart disease, bacterial pneumonia, pre-term and low birth weight deliveries, and in some instances, death; and

WHEREAS, students miss more than 51 million hours of school and employed adults lose more than 164 million hours of work each year due to dental disease or dental visits; and

WHEREAS, dental decay affects 18% of the nation's children aged 2-4, 52% of children aged 6-8, and 61% of teenagers age 15; and

WHEREAS, dental decay is one of the most prevalent health problems in Missouri with 55% of third grade children having experienced dental decay; and

WHEREAS, access to dental care is associated with higher utilization of preventive and restorative dental services; and

WHEREAS, the state has improved access for children enrolled in the MO HealthNet program, but more can be done for these low-income children who suffer more tooth decay than their higher-income peers; and

WHEREAS, Missouri residents deserve access to high quality oral health care:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby:

- (1) Recognize that good oral health is critical to good overall health;

36 (2) Support health policies at the state and local levels that are consistent and promote
37 optimal oral health;

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39 (3) Ensure oral health impact is a consideration in the development of state policy;

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41 (4) Support the use of available local, state, and federal resources to monitor oral health
42 status;

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44 (5) Support community oral health initiatives aimed at improving oral health literacy and
45 better health outcomes;

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47 (6) Recognize the month of August as "Oral Health Awareness Month" to draw attention
48 to ongoing efforts at the local, state, and federal levels to improve the oral health of all; and

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50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
51 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
52 Missouri Dental Association.

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