

House Concurrent Resolution No. 25

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES LICHTENEGGER (Sponsor), SWAN, KIRKTON, ZERR, HAEFNER, FLANIGAN, NEELY, MCCAHERTY, DIEHL, ALLEN, GUERNSEY, RICHARDSON, FRAKER, LOVE, MCGAUGH, KEENEY, BRATTIN, WALKER, GANNON, PFAUTSCH, LANT, SCHUPP, THOMSON AND PIERSON (Co-sponsors).

5761L.011

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

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

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

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

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

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19 **WHEREAS**, dental decay is one of the most prevalent health problems in Missouri with
20 55% of third grade children having experienced dental decay; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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