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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY OF 2021 TO BE CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Introduced By: Senators DiMario, Mendes, Valverde, DiPalma, Sosnowski, Miller,  
Acosta, Goldin, Goodwin, and Cano

Date Introduced: February 23, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, February is Children's Dental Health month and provides an opportunity to  
2 recognize that a child's health and well-being are essential to the quality of life. A healthy mouth  
3 is essential for self-esteem, success in school and is a vital component for overall health, which  
4 are meant to last a lifetime; and

5           WHEREAS, Good dental habits are learned at an early age, reinforced by examples set  
6 by parents, caregivers, older siblings and in collaboration with dental healthcare providers; and

7           WHEREAS, A child's teeth help with digestion, formulating speech patterns, maintain  
8 space for the adult teeth during the growth of the child through puberty and with proper care,  
9 nutritional guidance and regular dental visits, will increase a child's chances of maintaining their  
10 teeth throughout their lifetime; and

11           WHEREAS, Childhood cavities remain the most prevalent chronic curable disease of  
12 childhood and some 100 million Americans fail to visit their dental office; and

13           WHEREAS, Members of the dental community and community organizations devoted to  
14 increasing access to care are dedicated to caring for the dental health needs of Rhode Island's  
15 most vulnerable population and provides access for children who otherwise may not receive basic  
16 and preventive care; and

17           WHEREAS, The future is, to a large measure, dependent on educating our youth on the  
18 importance of developing and maintaining smart dental habits and good dietary choices  
19 throughout their lives, and by observing these measures, their teeth can remain healthy and strong  
20 into adulthood; now, therefore be it

1           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes the vital  
2 and often unrecognized benefits of a child's ability to access dental health educational programs  
3 and receive dental treatment in promoting health for children and families and urges all citizens  
4 and community organizations to recognize the observance of February as National Children's  
5 Dental Health Month in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
7 transmit certified copies to Director Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Rhode Island  
8 Department of Health, and Marie Jones-Bridges, CDA, RDH, PHDH, BS, Enterprise Clinical  
9 Service Community Based Coordinator, RI Rite Smiles Dental.

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