

THURSTON COUNTY

# Proclamation

## National Children's Dental Health Month

*WHEREAS, oral health is essential to an individual's general health and quality of life; and*

*WHEREAS, oral health connects to your overall health, and is integral to general health; and*

*WHEREAS, there are associations between oral health and diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, babies born low-birth-weight, and babies born prematurely; and*

*WHEREAS, Thurston County school-age children are having difficulty accessing dental care and are experiencing preventable oral health issues; and*

*WHEREAS, one in four adults in Thurston County, and one in three senior citizens do not have dental insurance; and*

*WHEREAS, Thurston County children and adults are experiencing preventable dental pain and tooth loss; and*

*WHEREAS, in a statewide effort to address the shared goal of improving health, with a focus on oral health, the Arcora Foundation and CHOICE Regional Health Network launched the Thurston County Local Impact Network which aims to reduce oral health disparities by increasing access to services that improve health outcomes; and*

*WHEREAS, the American Dental Association is celebrating February 2019 as National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Health hereby proclaims February as National Children's Dental Health Month in Thurston County, in recognition of the importance of the awareness of oral health, and urges all residents to recognize the critical importance of how oral health affects overall health.*

Adopted this twelfth day of February, 2019

BOARD OF HEALTH



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