

1 A RESOLUTION declaring April 2021 Oral Cancer Awareness Month in
2 Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, oral health is a critical component of overall health that affects speech,
4 nutrition, social development, productivity, and quality of life; and

5 WHEREAS, raising awareness about oral health generally, and particularly more
6 invasive diseases like oral cancer, is a fundamental concern of oral health professionals
7 across Kentucky;

8 WHEREAS, oral cancer will claim more than 9,750 lives annually in the United
9 States, and more than 49,000 new cases of oral cancer are diagnosed each year; and

10 WHEREAS, an estimated 25 percent of oral cancer patients have no known risk
11 factors; and

12 WHEREAS, oral cancer affects almost twice as many men as women; and

13 WHEREAS, access to dental care has been proven to be a major factor in early
14 diagnosis of oral cancer; and

15 WHEREAS, Kentucky has improved access to dental care for children and at-risk
16 individuals who are at greater risk of oral cancer; and

17 WHEREAS, early detection and self-examination also greatly increases the chance
18 of identifying oral cancer in its early stages; and

19 WHEREAS, this honorable body urges all residents in the Commonwealth of
20 Kentucky to perform self-examination regularly, and to see their dental health
21 professional in order to cultivate sound oral health; and

22 WHEREAS, this body further recognizes the importance of maintaining sound oral
23 health habits, and brings all residents' attention to the prevalence of oral cancer in their
24 communities and throughout this Commonwealth;

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

26 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
27 ***Kentucky:***

1 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby declares April 2021 Oral Cancer Awareness
2 Month in Kentucky.

3 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
4 Resolution to Senator Ralph Alvarado.