

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing February 8, 2022, as Children's Oral Health
2 Awareness Day.

3 WHEREAS, oral health is a fundamental building block for overall health; and

4 WHEREAS, good oral health habits should be established early in life; and

5 WHEREAS, throughout the United States, of children aged six to eight years, more
6 than half, 52 percent, have had a cavity in their baby teeth; and

7 WHEREAS, children from lower-income families are twice as likely to have
8 untreated cavities as children from higher-income families; and

9 WHEREAS, only 51 percent of five-year-olds and six-year-olds entering public
10 school had a documented dental screening or exam; and

11 WHEREAS, children without dental insurance were three times more likely to face
12 barriers to dental care access than children with coverage; and

13 WHEREAS, in Kentucky, more than 40 percent of children have untreated tooth
14 decay; and

15 WHEREAS, all Kentuckians deserve access to resources to maintain proper oral
16 health; and

17 WHEREAS, Volunteers of America, with support from the Kentucky Beverage
18 Association, Avesis, and more than 24 community partners including Red Bird Mission,
19 Advent Health, the Kentucky Dental Association, the University of Kentucky School of
20 Dentistry, the University of Louisville School of Dentistry, the Elgin Foundation, and the
21 Kentucky Oral Health Coalition, have invested in oral health solutions for southeastern
22 Kentuckians to help bring awareness about the importance of oral health; and

23 WHEREAS, community partners will work with health care leaders throughout the
24 state to improve access to care and provide oral health education and outreach to children
25 to treat and prevent diseases; and

26 WHEREAS, teaching children about proper dental care, including brushing,
27 flossing, and regular dental check-ups, will help them establish good habits that will last a

1 lifetime; and

2 WHEREAS, together we will help Kentuckians know that "A Healthy Mouth
3 Means a Healthy You";

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
6 *Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby recognizes February 8, 2022, as Children's Oral
8 Health Awareness Day.

9 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
10 Resolution to Senator Robert Stivers.