

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HEALTH AS A PART OF OVERALL HEALTH AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE ORAL HEALTH OF ALL IN IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

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

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

WHEREAS, untreated dental disease is linked to adverse health outcomes associated with diabetes, stroke, heart disease, bacterial pneumonia, preterm and low birth weight deliveries, and in some instances, death; and

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

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

WHEREAS, dental decay is one of the most prevalent health problems in Idaho with 67.1% of third grade children having experienced dental decay; and

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

WHEREAS, the state has improved access for children enrolled in Idaho Smiles, Idaho's dental program for children enrolled in Medicaid, from 38% in 2008 to 61% in 2013, and more can be done for these low-income children who suffer more tooth decay than their higher-income peers; and

WHEREAS, Idaho residents deserve access to high-quality oral health care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we recognize that good oral health is critical to good overall health, and we support health policies at the state and local levels that are consistent with each other and we promote optimal oral health and believe that the impact of oral health on overall health should be a consideration in the development of state health policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the use of available resources to monitor oral health status and support community oral health initiatives aimed at improving oral health literacy and better health outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we designate the month of February as Oral Health Awareness Month to draw attention to ongoing efforts at the local, state and federal levels to improve the oral health of all.