



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research reports over 40% of children have had a cavity and the Center for Disease Control identifies cavities as the most common chronic disease among children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, these underserved children may not be taught proper oral hygiene by a dental professional or whose families may not have the means to purchase basic dental care tools, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss; and

WHEREAS, these children are at risk for developing tooth decay, gum disease, and other preventable health issues; and

WHEREAS, that Smile, a social impact initiative whose mission is to Instill Confidence in Children through Preventative Dental Care, was founded by Shiann Harper in 2018, is bridging this health care gap by actively challenging elementary school children to brush their teeth twice and floss once daily, developing healthy smiles, increasing self-esteem of children participating in the Smile Challenge; and

WHEREAS, Shiann Harper is creating awareness in her community by raising funds and collecting dental hygiene supplies which are donated and distributed to these children through Smile;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 2020, as

Smile Challenge Month

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 10th day of March 2020.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor