



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rank Alabama fifteenth in the U.S. for oral cavity and pharynx cancer incidence. Alabama is third among the states for oral cavity and pharynx cancer deaths; and*

*WHEREAS, oropharyngeal cancers are those confined to the base of tongue, soft palate, tonsils and back of throat; and*

*WHEREAS, observational studies by the American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs find that the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination is associated with a greater than 90 percent reduction in oral HPV infection; and*

*WHEREAS, according to the American Dental Association, HPV can infect the mouth and throat, potentially causing oropharyngeal cancer; and*

*WHEREAS, regular oral cancer examinations performed by an oral health professional remain the best method for detecting oral cancer in its early stages, and when detected and treated early, treatment-related health problems are reduced and survival rates may increase;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 2023, as*

# Oral Cancer Awareness 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.*



*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor