



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, the future is, to a large measure, dependent on the good health of our families; and

WHEREAS, cavities (also known as caries or tooth decay) are one of the most common chronic conditions of childhood in the United States, and untreated cavities can cause pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing and learning; and

WHEREAS, the month of February has been designated National Children's Dental Health Month; and

WHEREAS, the year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the first community water fluoridation in the United States in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Fluoridation has been scientifically proven to reduce dental caries and improve the quality of life for both adults and children; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than other children; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Public Health is hosting its eighth annual "Share Your Smile with Alabama" Campaign to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, adults, caregivers, teachers and others; and

WHEREAS, a healthy smile is important to a child's self-esteem, and with proper care, a balanced diet that limits sugary beverages and snacks, and regular dental visits to prevent and treat oral disease, children's teeth can remain healthy and strong; and

WHEREAS, the Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection can cause a variety of health problems, and a vaccine is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration beginning at nine years of age; and

WHEREAS, good dental habits and attitudes established at an early age are critical in maintaining good oral health throughout life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim February 2025, as

Children's Dental Health 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 13th day of February 2025.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor