



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. This year's theme is "Get a Gold Medal Smile" and the campaign slogan is "Brush Your Teeth with Fluoride Toothpaste and Clean Your Teeth for a Healthy Smile"; 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 first 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, 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 2018, as

Children's Dental Health Month

in the State of Alabama and urge all citizens and community organizations join in this observance.



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 24th day of January 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor