



Proclamation

of the
Board of Supervisors County of Humboldt

WHEREAS, February is National Children's Dental Health Month, a time to dedicate ourselves to support our most vulnerable Humboldt County citizens – including pregnant women and children to achieve better dental health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, oral health is part of overall health and is particularly important for pregnant women for their health and the health of their babies; and

WHEREAS, all teeth are important for eating, talking and smiling, including baby teeth; and

WHEREAS, one in four children in Humboldt County will start kindergarten with untreated dental decay; and

WHEREAS, we commend the dental professionals in Humboldt who provide dental care to the most vulnerable and simultaneously acknowledge the dental workforce shortage that has created limited dental access for pregnant women and to specialty care; and

WHEREAS, babies are not born with the germs that cause tooth decay, and oral bacteria is contagious and can be passed from mother (and other caregivers) to baby; and

WHEREAS, the American Dental Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center have developed consensus statements, outlining the safety and necessity of dental care and education during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative we support local pregnant women to establish good oral hygiene practices for themselves, before their baby is born, by navigating them to the dentist, encouraging travel planning to get there and providing information on good prenatal nutrition, oral hygiene and how to care for the oral health of their children; and

WHEREAS, practices such as wiping babies gums after feeding, lifting the lip to assess health of teeth and gums, brushing newly emerged teeth with fluoride toothpaste two times a day, limiting sweet drinks, fruit juice, candy, dried fruits and other sweets that can cause tooth decay, and making and keeping preventive dental check-ups beginning at first tooth or child's first birthday are important for success.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby calls upon the citizens, governmental agencies, community stakeholders and medical and dental providers of Humboldt County to work together to address oral health disparities in Humboldt County beginning with our most vulnerable residents, including pregnant women.

February 1, 2022

Virginia Bass, Chair