

PROCLAMATION

OF THE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

WHEREAS, February is National Children's Dental Health Month, a time to acknowledge and support efforts to improve the oral health of our most vulnerable Humboldt County residents – including children and pregnant people; and

WHEREAS, tooth decay is the most common disease found in children and is preventable when caregivers assist children with toothbrushing twice daily for two minutes using fluoridated toothpaste, flossing daily, and attending routine dental check-ups; and

WHEREAS, babies are not born with the germs that cause tooth decay as oral bacteria is contagious and can be passed from caregivers to children through the sharing of utensils, water bottles, and toothbrushes; and

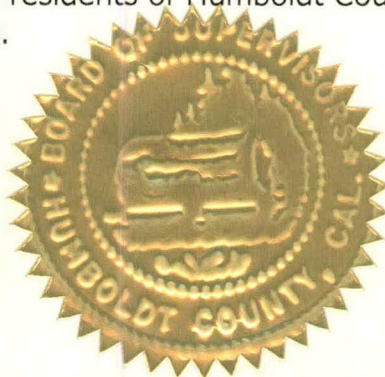
WHEREAS, one in four children in Humboldt County will start kindergarten with untreated dental decay with the greatest burden of oral health issues falling on historically marginalized communities of color and immigrant families; and

WHEREAS, our county supports systems changes that create better access to preventative interventions including fluoride varnish dental sealants, and fluoridated water within Humboldt; and

WHEREAS, we commend the health care professionals in Humboldt who provide dental care and care coordination to the most vulnerable while simultaneously acknowledging the dental workforce shortage that has created limited dental access for many residents in our county.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby calls upon residents of Humboldt County to work together to address oral health disparities.

Date: February 6, 2024



Rex Bohn, Chair