

**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 youngest and most vulnerable population in Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, tooth decay is the most common disease found in children and is completely preventable through twice-daily brushing with fluoridated toothpaste, daily flossing and twice a year dental check-ups; and

WHEREAS, parents and caregivers can help reduce the odds of dental disease by reducing access to sugary food and drinks and by not sharing utensils, cups and toothbrushes, which can spread cavity-causing bacteria; and

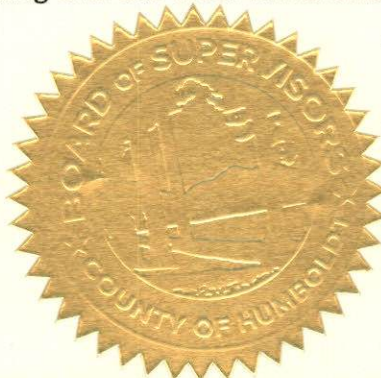
WHEREAS, one in four children in Humboldt County will start kindergarten with untreated dental decay with the greatest burden of oral health issues falling on historically marginalized communities of color and immigrant families; and

WHEREAS, our county supports systems changes that create better access to preventative interventions such as 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby calls upon residents of Humboldt County to work together to address oral health disparities, beginning with our most vulnerable populations, including children and pregnant individuals.

Date: February 11, 2025



Michelle Bushnell, Chair