Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

PROCLAMATION

in recognition of

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, February is National Children's Dental Health Month, which is 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 and fewer than 50% of children ages 5 and under with Medi-Cal will visit a dentist in the next year; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, Public Health Branch acknowledges the efforts made by local dentists and OB providers in prioritizing dental care during pregnancy, which has resulted in a higher percent of patients attending a dental visit during pregnancy in Humboldt County than the average statewide; and

WHEREAS, Public Health commends the health professionals who provide dental education, treatment and care coordination while simultaneously acknowledging the dental workforce shortage that has created limited dental access for many residents in our county; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County supports systems changes that create better access to preventative interventions such as fluoride varnish, dental sealants and fluoridated water within Humboldt.

NOW, 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, beginning with our most vulnerable populations, including children, pregnant individuals, historically marginalized communities of color and immigrant families.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

February 3, 2026

Mike Wilson, Chair