

# THURSTON COUNTY

# Proclamation

## National Children's Dental Health Month

***WHEREAS,** oral health is essential to an individual's general health and quality of life; and*

***WHEREAS,** oral health connects to your overall health, and is integral to general health; and*

***WHEREAS,** Thurston County Public Health and Social Services has prioritized Oral Health in the 2020- 2024 Department Strategic Plan as a key approach needed to encourage healthy living; and*

***WHEREAS,** there are associations between oral health and diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, babies born low-birthweight, and babies born prematurely; and*

***WHEREAS,** Thurston County children are having difficulty accessing dental care and are experiencing preventable oral health issues; and*

***WHEREAS,** Thurston County children and adults are experiencing preventable dental pain and tooth loss; and*

***WHEREAS,** Thurston County Public Health and Social Services' Oral Health Program is working with local partners including the Thurston Oral Health Network, local school districts and the Lewis-Mason- Thurston Area Agency on Aging to address oral health disparities; and*

***WHEREAS,** oral health should not be dependent on age, income, race, ethnicity, gender, or geography and reducing oral health disparities in Thurston County will have a meaningful impact on the health of local residents; and*

***WHEREAS,** the American Dental Association celebrates National Children's Dental Health Month every February as "a month-long national health observance that brings together thousands of dedicated professionals, health care providers and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and many others."*

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Thurston County Board of Health hereby proclaims February as Children's Dental Health Month in Thurston County, in recognition of the importance of the awareness of oral health and urges all residents to recognize the critical importance of how oral health affects overall health.*

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February  
2023 BOARD OF HEALTH

