



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, oral health impacts overall health, and good oral health is essential to a healthy life, and when we practice good oral health habits, we increase our smiles; and

WHEREAS, smiles are morale boosters and confidence builders, and when you smile at someone, you communicate that they are valued and worth the smile that you just gave them; and

WHEREAS, we encourage Tennesseans to care for their health by brushing their teeth in the morning, after meals, and at night before bed; and

WHEREAS, tooth decay is the most common chronic condition of childhood, and poor oral health can have a detrimental effect on children's quality of life, their performance at school, and their success later in life (CDC); and

WHEREAS, nearly half of all adults aged 30 years or older show signs of gum disease (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Charitable Care Network (TCCN), with a mission to provide support, education, and representation for non-profit organizations that provide charitable health care services to low-income, uninsured, and underserved Tennesseans strives to increase access to affordable oral health services for all Tennesseans in need; and

WHEREAS, of TCCN's 56+ charitable care member locations, 20 members in 19 locations provide direct oral health services, and TCCN's five Project Access members coordinate referrals for free or reduced-cost complex oral care; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's charitable and safety net dental clinics provided 48,555 oral health services to 31,631 unique patients in 2023; and

WHEREAS, these more than 31,000 Tennesseans would otherwise not have received care; and

WHEREAS, TCCN charitable care providers know that restoring a healthy smile can completely turn someone's life around; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 10-14, 2024, as

"Smile Power " Oral Health Week

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this first day of May 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Hight

Secretary of State