



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, a common chronic childhood condition resulting from poor oral health can have a detrimental effect on children's quality of life, their performance at school, and their success later in life; 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, Tennessee's charitable and safety net dental clinics provided 51,861 oral health services to 31,096 unique patients in 2024; 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

WHEREAS, the Healthy Smiles Student Loan Repayment Program provides educational loan repayment to qualified dentists (up to \$300,000 for a 3-year service obligation), hygienists (up to \$50,000 for a 2-year service obligation), and dental assistants (up to \$20,000 for a 2-year service obligation), to practice full-time at dental clinics located in medically underserved areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 9-13, 2025 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 twenty-fourth day of April 2025.

Bill Lee

Governor

John R. Hargett

Secretary of State