

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING
FEBURARY 2014 AS NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, according to the Children Now Policy Brief, California children's oral health is among the worst in the nation; and

WHEREAS, untreated dental disease in children can lead to poor academic performance and behavior problems because of the pain, as well as problems with chewing or speaking, and reduced self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, if dental disease is not treated early, it can result in the need for more serious and expensive intervention later; and

WHEREAS, State Preschool Dental Screenings compared untreated dental disease in 2012-13 to that in 2009-10 and the results showed: Santa Maria had 19% in 2012-13 compared to 50% in 2009-10; Lompoc had 35% compared to 39%; Goleta/Isle Vista had 26% compared to 43%; and Santa Barbara had 46% compared to 33%; and

WHEREAS, in 2012-13, twelve Child Health & Disability Prevention Program Pediatricians in North County are now treating children with fluoride varnish, compared to two Pediatricians in South County; and

WHEREAS, Public Health Department WIC and Maternal Child & Adolescent Health offered preventative oral health education to 7,200 families this year and the Santa Barbara County Office of Education, Health Linkages Program offered oral health education to 4,000 families with preschool children; and

WHEREAS, tooth decay is the most common preventable illness affecting U.S. children today that can be improved with proper identification, preventative education and treatment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County does hereby observe the month of February 2014 as National Children's Oral Health Awareness Month, to facilitate increased awareness, education, prevention and treatment of Childhood Oral Health Disease throughout the County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this fourth day of February 2014, by a unanimous vote of all members present.