



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, it is important for individuals 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 disease of children 6 to 11 years and adolescents aged 12 to 19 years (CDC); and

WHEREAS, 9 out of 10 people over the age of 20 have some degree of tooth decay (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 and a vision of a strong, compassionate health care safety net, strives to increase access to affordable oral health services for all Tennesseans in need; and

WHEREAS, of TCCN's 51 charitable care member locations, 27 provide direct oral health services and TCCN's four Project Access members coordinate referrals for free or reduced cost complex oral care; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's charitable and reduced cost dental clinics provided more than 34,653 procedures in 2018 to Tennesseans who would have otherwise not 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 the week of June 10-14, 2019 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 fourteenth day of March, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Regatt

Secretary of State

