

By Senator Hays

20-02090A-11

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 30, 2011, as "Dentists' Day on the Hill."

WHEREAS, the Florida Dental Association, a statewide professional membership organization representing nearly 7,000 licensed dentists in this state, was established in 1884 to advance the public health through professional education and public advocacy while promoting high practice standards and improving the professional practice environment, and

WHEREAS, studies show that good oral health may help prevent heart disease, arterial blockage, stroke, diabetes, preterm delivery, low-birth-weight babies, and bacterial pneumonia, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Dental Association is promoting "Dentistry: Gateway to Good Health" to emphasize that oral health is directly linked to a person's overall health, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Dental Association has developed "Mouth Wise," a dental health education kit for elementary students designed to give children a basic understanding of their teeth, mouths, and gums, the importance of preventive dentistry, and the relationship of preventive dentistry to overall health care, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Dental Association has also developed a "Mouth Wise" dental health education kit for middle school students which teaches the importance of dental health care and includes information on nutrition and soda consumption, the use of mouth guards and smokeless tobacco, and oral piercing, and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Florida Dental Association joined

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30 efforts with the Department of Health's Volunteer Health Care
31 Provider Program to create "Project: Dentists' Care," a dental
32 access program that, in 2010, provided care for underserved
33 adults and children statewide for an estimated \$10 million in
34 donated services, and

35 WHEREAS, in February 2011 dentists in this state
36 volunteered dental services for the annual "Give Kids A Smile"
37 event, NOW, THEREFORE,

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39 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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41 That March 30, 2011, is recognized as "Dentists' Day on the
42 Hill."

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
44 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Florida
45 Dental Association as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
46 Florida Senate.