

By Senator Garcia

38-01086-14

20141490\_\_

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 2014, and each February thereafter, as "Oral Health Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, oral health is a critical component of overall health affecting speech, nutrition, growth and function, social development, employability and productivity, and quality of life, and

WHEREAS, dental decay is the most common chronic disease among children, 4 times more common than asthma and early childhood obesity and 20 times more common than diabetes, and

WHEREAS, untreated dental disease is linked to adverse health outcomes associated with diabetes, stroke, heart disease, bacterial pneumonia, preterm and low birth weight deliveries, and, in some instances, death, and

WHEREAS, students miss more than 51 million hours of school and employed adults lose more than 164 million hours of work each year due to dental disease or dental visits, and

WHEREAS, dental decay affects 18 percent of the nation's children ages 2 to 4 years, 52 percent of children ages 6 to 8 years, and 61 percent of children at 15 years of age, and

WHEREAS, dental decay is one of the most prevalent health problems in this state, and

WHEREAS, access to dental care is associated with higher use of preventive and restorative dental services, and

WHEREAS, children from low-income households suffer more tooth decay than other children, and

WHEREAS, good oral health is critical to good overall

38-01086-14

20141490\_\_

30 health, NOW, THEREFORE,

31

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

33

34 That February 2014, and each February thereafter, is

35 recognized as "Oral Health Awareness Month" in Florida.