

HR 9057

2014

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing February 2014 as "Oral Health
3 Awareness Month" in Florida.

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

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

12 WHEREAS, children from low-income households suffer more
13 dental decay than other children, and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, in the United States from 1999 through 2004,
22 dental decay affected 24 percent of children at 2 to 4 years of
23 age, 53 percent of children at 6 to 8 years of age, and 56
24 percent of children at 15 years of age, and

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25 WHEREAS, access to dental care is associated with higher
26 use of preventive and restorative dental services, NOW,
27 THEREFORE,

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29 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
30 Florida:

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32 That February 2014 is recognized as "Oral Health Awareness
33 Month" in Florida, during which the residents of this state are
34 called upon to participate in programs designed to educate
35 citizens about the importance of good oral health.