

By Senator Hays

11-02323A-15

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing March 25, 2015, as "Dentists'
3 Day on the Hill."

4
5 WHEREAS, the Florida Dental Association was established in
6 1884 to advance public health through professional dentistry
7 education and public advocacy while promoting high practice
8 standards and improving the professional practice environment,
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the Florida Dental Association is a statewide
11 professional membership organization representing nearly 6,500
12 licensed dentists in this state, and

13 WHEREAS, studies show that good oral health may help
14 prevent heart disease, arterial blockage, stroke, diabetes,
15 preterm delivery, low birth weights in babies, and bacterial
16 pneumonia, and

17 WHEREAS, the Florida Dental Association is promoting
18 "Florida's Action for Dental Health," a comprehensive effort
19 developed by the Florida Dental Association and stakeholder
20 groups to improve the oral health and resulting overall health
21 of all Floridians, and

22 WHEREAS, in 2014, the Florida Dental Association Foundation
23 launched its first Florida Mission of Mercy, a massive, 2-day,
24 free dental clinic involving more than 1,450 volunteers, 350 of
25 whom were dentists and dental hygienists, who treated more than
26 1,600 patients and provided more than \$1.2 million in donated
27 care in Tampa, and

28 WHEREAS, the Florida Dental Association Foundation is
29 coordinating its next Florida Mission of Mercy, which will be

11-02323A-15

20151632__

30 held on April 22 and 23, 2016, in Jacksonville, and

31 WHEREAS, the Donated Dental Services program, created in
32 1997 by the Florida Dental Lifeline Network and the South
33 Florida District Dental Association, is composed of nearly 400
34 dentists and 200 dental labs statewide, and enables dentists to
35 donate comprehensive treatment for persons with disabilities,
36 the elderly, or the medically fragile who cannot afford dental
37 care, and

38 WHEREAS, the Donated Dental Services program has provided
39 care to more than 1,351 patients with seriously neglected dental
40 health issues, with nearly \$5 million in dental services donated
41 since its inception, and

42 WHEREAS, in 1993, the Florida Dental Association teamed
43 with the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program in the Florida
44 Department of Health to create "Project: Dentists Care," a
45 dental access program, and

46 WHEREAS, from July 2013 to June 2014, "Project: Dentists
47 Care" provided a safety net of preventative and restorative
48 dental care for underserved adults and children statewide, with
49 more than 2,600 volunteer dentists donating more than \$9.5
50 million in services, NOW, THEREFORE,

51
52 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

53
54 That March 25, 2015, is recognized as "Dentists' Day on the
55 Hill."

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
57 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Florida
58 Dental Association as a tangible token of the sentiments of the

11-02323A-15

20151632__

59 Florida Senate.