

From: e-Dear Colleague

Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 10:48 AM

To:

Subject: e-DearColleague: National Children's Dental Health Month

National Children's Dental Health Month

Sending Office: Honorable Michael K. Simpson

Sent By:

National Children's Dental Health Month

Dear Colleague:

Tooth decay is the number one chronic infectious disease among children in the U.S. The impact of untreated decay goes far beyond oral health. That is why the American Dental Association has dedicated February as National Children's Dental Health Month. This is an opportunity that brings together thousands of dedicated professionals, health care providers and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and many others. The Congressional Oral Health Caucus fully supports National Children's Dental Health Month and all of the related activities taking place throughout the month of February.

Give Kids A Smile (GKAS), sponsored by the ADA Foundation, is an annual centerpiece during National Children's Dental Health Month. GKAS day is one of the most important events for children and dentists in this country. Through the Give Kids A Smile program, the ADA Foundation provides assistance and resources to volunteers including more than 6,000 dentists and 57,000 dental team members and other volunteers, as they give of their time and talents to improve children's well-being. Since the program's inception in 2003, volunteers have provided donated services to over 5.5 million kids across the country, in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Throughout the month of February, dentists and dental team members across the country will be providing oral health education, screenings, preventive care and restorative services for needy children and will continue those efforts throughout the year. Some use their own dental practices; others go into schools and additional community settings to reach the kids. Many participate at major events at dental and dental hygiene schools where hundreds of kids may receive oral health services.

To further educate the public about this critical issue, the ADA offers a National Children's Dental Health Month toolkit that includes a poster, activity sheets and program planning guide for members of

the dental team, parents, teachers and others who can help keep children's smiles healthy now and for years to come. Visit ada.org/ncdhm to learn more.

Thank you for your support for dentistry and the oral health of our nation.

Sincerely,

Congressman Mike Simpson DMD

Co-Chair Oral Health Caucus

Congressman Paul Gosar DDS

Congressman A. Drew Ferguson, IV DMD

Congressman Elijah Cummings

Co-Chair Oral Health Caucus

Congressman Brian Babin DDS

Congressman Jeff Van Drew DMD

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