

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0019R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Cohen, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Stokes,
Dorsey, Sneed, Bullock, Clarke, Reisinger, Pinkett, Schleifer, Scott, Burnett
Introduced and adopted: April 3, 2017

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Children's Dental Health

1
2 FOR the purpose of recognizing the importance of good dental health for children and supporting
3 efforts to improve oral health literacy in underserved communities and throughout Baltimore.

Recitals

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5 **WHEREAS**, Dental caries is the most common chronic disease found in children. Left
6 untreated, tooth decay can cause pain and infections as well as problems eating, speaking, and
7 learning.

8 **WHEREAS**, In the United States, more than 16 million children go each year without seeing a
9 dentist.

10 **WHEREAS**, Low income and minority children, especially those of Latino background, are
11 disproportionately affected by poor oral health and have a greater number of untreated cavities.

12 **WHEREAS**, Latino children in Maryland are less likely to visit the dentist and more likely to
13 lack dental insurance than are white children.

14 **WHEREAS**, An oral health literate and educated public is more empowered to embrace
15 healthy oral hygiene and dietary behaviors and to make and keep dental appointments.

16 **WHEREAS**, The Maryland Dental Action Coalition is building oral health awareness and
17 knowledge within the Latino community by running the Dientes Sanos, Niños Sanos (Healthy
18 Teeth, Healthy Kids) campaign promoting good oral health habits.

19 **WHEREAS**, Brushing twice daily for two minutes using toothpaste with fluoride, flossing
20 daily, having routine check-ups, drinking tap water if your community water system or private
21 well has fluoride in it, and eating a diet low in sugary foods and drinks help prevent tooth decay.

22 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City is pleased to join with the Maryland Dental Action Coalition, the
23 American Dental Association, and the Maryland Dental Action Coalition's Dientes Sanos, Niños
24 Sanos (Healthy Teeth Healthy Kids) campaign targeting Latino families to promote good oral
25 health through evidence based messages communicated through proven social marketing
26 channels, community outreach, and educational websites.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
2 Council recognizes the importance of good dental health for children and supports efforts to
3 improve oral health literacy in underserved communities and throughout Baltimore.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
5 Health Commissioner, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.