

2020 -- S 2339

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY, 2020, AS "NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH
MONTH" IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Donna M. Nesselbush

Date Introduced: February 12, 2020

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, February is National Children's Dental Health Month and provides an
2 opportunity to recognize the importance of optimal oral health. Healthy teeth are essential for
3 self-esteem, success in school and are a vital component for overall health. They are meant to last
4 a lifetime; and

5 WHEREAS, On January 25, 2020, the United States celebrated the 75th Anniversary of
6 Community Water Fluoridation. Fluoride strengthens teeth at the level of 0.7 milligrams per liter
7 of water, roughly the same as a grain of salt in a pail of water. Water systems in four out of five
8 Rhode Island counties have adjusted to safe and effective fluoride levels since 1955; and

9 WHEREAS, Fluoridation is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control, also known
10 as the CDC, as both cost-saving and the single most effective public health measure to prevent
11 tooth decay helping not only children but all individuals, irrespective of income or education
12 level; and

13 WHEREAS, Our state's water systems are key partners in oral health and the Rhode
14 Island Department of Health, on behalf of the CDC, presented awards to Cumberland, Newport,
15 Pawtucket, and Providence, in recognition of achieving the recommended level of fluoridation for
16 12 consecutive months within their water system; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
18 hereby urges all citizens and community organizations to observe February as "National
19 Children's Dental Health Month" to encourage success in our children by educating on the

1 importance of smart dental habits, good dietary choices and fluoridated water so their teeth can
2 remain healthy and strong into adulthood; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
4 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Director Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH,
5 Rhode Island Department of Health, and Marie Jones-Bridges, CDA, RDH, PHDH, BS,
6 Enterprise Clinical Service Community Based Coordinator, RI Rite Smiles Dental.

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