



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### 1        **Resolution in Support of Awareness and Importance of Oral Health Care**

2        **WHEREAS**, oral health is a critical component of overall health affecting speech, nutrition, growth and  
3        function, social development, employability and productivity, and quality of life, and

4        **WHEREAS**, good self-care, such as brushing with fluoride toothpaste, daily flossing, and professional  
5        treatment, is key to good oral health, and

6        **WHEREAS**, untreated dental disease is linked to adverse health outcomes associated with diabetes,  
7        stroke, heart disease, bacterial pneumonia, pre-term and low birth weight deliveries, and in some  
8        instances, death, and

9        **WHEREAS**, routine dental care, by identifying and treating periodontal problems, can help the more  
10       than 30 million American adults suffering with diabetes better manage their blood glucose levels, and

11       **WHEREAS**, where nearly one in eight opioid prescriptions are related to dental treatment, routine  
12       dental care can help prevent tooth decay and dental pain, reducing the need for opioid or other  
13       potentially addictive medication, and

14       **WHEREAS**, access to dental care is associated with higher utilization of preventive and restorative  
15       dental services, and

16       **WHEREAS**, more can be done for low-income residents who suffer more tooth decay than those  
17       residents with higher-income, and

18       **WHEREAS**, Americans deserve access to high quality oral health care.

19       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association  
20       recognizes the importance of oral health as a critical component of overall health while also recognizing  
21       the importance of oral health awareness efforts at the local, state, and federal levels to improve the oral  
22       health of all.

23       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports the development of consistent state and local  
24       policies to promote optimal oral health.

ADOPTED, this day, the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 2021.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R – Iowa), Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera (D – Colorado), Lt. Governor  
Juliana Stratton (D – Illinois)