

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 182

Congratulating the American Dental Association for establishing the “Give Kids a Smile” program, emphasizing the need to improve access to dental care for children, and thanking dentists for volunteering their time to help provide needed dental care.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2003

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the American Dental Association for establishing the “Give Kids a Smile” program, emphasizing the need to improve access to dental care for children, and thanking dentists for volunteering their time to help provide needed dental care.

Whereas access to dental care for children is a vital element of overall health care and development;

Whereas dental caries—more commonly known as tooth decay—is the most common chronic childhood disease;

Whereas untreated tooth decay in children results in thousands of children experiencing poor eating and sleeping patterns, suffering decreased attention spans at school, and being unable to smile;

Whereas, due to a confluence of factors, children eligible for Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program are 3 to 5 times more likely than other children to have untreated tooth decay;

Whereas dentists provide an estimated \$1,700,000,000 annually in nonreimbursed dental care;

Whereas dentists participating in the American Dental Association established the “Give Kids a Smile” program to serve as a reminder to the Nation about the need to end untreated childhood dental disease; and

Whereas the “Give Kids a Smile” program treated an estimated 1,000,000 children on February 21, 2003, at approximately 5,000 locations in all 50 States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) congratulates the American Dental Association
3 for establishing the “Give Kids a Smile” pro-
4 gram;

5 (2) emphasizes the need to improve access to
6 dental care for children; and

7 (3) thanks the thousands of dentists who volun-
8 teered their time and brought a smile to faces of an
9 estimated 1,000,000 children on February 21, 2003.

○