



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, oral health impacts overall health, and good oral health is essential to a healthy life, and when we practice good oral health habits, we increase our smiles;

**WHEREAS**, smiles are morale boosters and confidence builders, and when you smile at someone, you communicate that they are valued and worth the smile that you just gave them; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage Tennesseans to care for their health by brushing their teeth in the morning, after meals, and at night before bed; and

**WHEREAS**, tooth decay is the most common chronic condition of childhood, and poor oral health can have a detrimental effect on children's quality of life, their performance at school, and their success later in life (CDC); and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Charitable Care Network (TCCN), with a mission to provide support, education, and representation for non-profit organizations that provide charitable health care services to low-income, uninsured, and underserved Tennesseans and a vision of a strong, compassionate health care safety net, strives to increase access to affordable oral health services for all Tennesseans in need; and

**WHEREAS**, of TCCN's 50+ charitable care member locations, 19 members in 20 locations provide direct oral health services, and 11 of these dental clinics are enrolled in the Tennessee Department of Health's Uninsured Adult Healthcare Safety Net Quality Improvement Incentive Program; and

**WHEREAS**, TCCN's charitable dental clinics provided 53,568 oral health services to 17,458 unique patients in 2025 and these Tennesseans would otherwise not have received care; and

**WHEREAS**, TCCN charitable care providers know that restoring a healthy smile can completely turn someone's life around; and

**WHEREAS**, the Healthy Smiles Student Loan Repayment Program provides educational loan repayment to qualified dentists (up to \$300,000 for a 3-year service obligation), hygienists (up to \$50,000 for a 2-year service obligation), and dental assistants (up to \$20,000 for a 2-year service obligation), in exchange for a service obligation to practice full-time at dental clinics located in medically underserved areas;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 15-19, 2026 as

*"Smile Power " Oral Health Week*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twelfth day of May 2026.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Julie Holcomb*

Secretary of State