

WHEREAS, because developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month each February; and

WHEREAS, now in its 65th year, this month-long national health observance brings together thousands of dedicated dental professionals, health care providers and others to promote the benefits of good oral health to children and adults, caregivers, teachers and many others; and

WHEREAS, dental disease can lead to difficulty eating, sleeping, paying attention in school and smiling, and the ADA urges parents to make sure their children brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste, floss daily, eat a balanced diet and see their dentist regularly to address tooth decay in its earliest stages; and

WHEREAS, reports show that American students miss 51 million hours of school every year because of oral health problems. And students who are absent miss critical instruction time – especially in early grades where reading skills are an important focus and the building blocks of future learning. And students who have experienced recent oral health pain are four times more likely to have lower grade point average than their counterparts who have not.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Richard Ranzau, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim February 2015 as

CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

February 4, 2015