



As Part of National Public Health Week Baltimore City Presents Proclamation Promoting Good Oral Health

Maryland Dental Action Coalition recognized for bringing attention to children's dental health within the Latino community

Baltimore City, MD – Baltimore City Council celebrates National Public Health Week, April 3 – 9, with the strong belief that everyone deserves the opportunity for a healthy life. As part of this effort, we are **kicking off National Public Health Week in Baltimore City with a Proclamation emphasizing the importance of promoting good oral health care and recognizing the Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) for its work to bring attention to the importance of children's dental health within the Latino community** through its bilingual *Healthy Teeth, Health Kids – Dientes Sanos, Niños Sanos* campaign. The campaign's strives to educate Spanish-speaking families with young children about the importance of children's oral health and teach parents the basic oral hygiene skills needed to care for their children's mouth.

The Proclamation will be presented by Councilmember Zeke Cohen, Chair of the Education & Youth Committee at the Baltimore City Council meeting on April 3 at 1pm in the Du Burns Council Chamber, Baltimore MD

Data shows that Latino children in Maryland are less likely to visit the dentist and more likely to lack dental insurance. In fact, low income and minority children, especially those of Hispanic background, are disproportionately affected by poor oral health and have a greater number of untreated cavities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease among U.S. children. Left untreated, tooth decay (cavities) can cause pain and infection as well as problems eating, speaking and learning. Oral disease is responsible for more than 51 million lost school hours each year. In the United States, more than 16 million children go each year without seeing a dentist.

MDAC is a nonprofit coalition whose mission is to develop, maintain and grow an active, statewide partnership of individuals and organizations who work together to improve the oral health of all Marylanders. Visit the MDAC website at: www.mdac.us

Please visit the English and Spanish sites: HealthyTeethHealthyKids.org and DientesSanosNinosSanos.org