



**As Part of National Children’s Dental Health Month,
Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties
Present Proclamation Promoting Good Oral Health**

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

Silver Spring, MD - Every February, thousands of dental organizations and providers throughout the nation take time to engage in special educational programs about the importance of children’s oral health. **The Maryland Dental Action Coalition has joined forces with Montgomery and Prince George’s counties to emphasize the importance of promoting good oral care among Latinos**, since 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.

County Proclamations bringing attention to this issue will be presented on:

DATE: Tuesday February 21 at 1:15pm

LOCATION: Prince George’s County Council

PRESENTED BY: Councilmember Deni Taveras, Vice-Chair, Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

DATE: Tuesday February 28 at 1:15pm

LOCATION: Montgomery County Council

PRESENTED BY: Councilmember George Leventhal, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee.

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition launched the bilingual campaign **Dientes Sanos, Niños Sanos** (*Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids*) to educate Spanish-speaking families with young children about the importance of children’s oral health and teach them the basic oral hygiene skills needed to care for their children’s mouth. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC), tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease among U.S. children. Left untreated, tooth decay (cavities) can cause pain and infections as well as problems eating, speaking and learning. They are 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. The Maryland Dental Action Coalition, 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

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**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

For Immediate Release

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Baltimore City, MD – Baltimore City Council celebrates National Public Health Week, April 3 – 9, with the strong believe 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.

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Please visit the English and Spanish sites: DientesSanosNinosSanos.org

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