

**Southern Health Association
Resolution
Support of Preventive Dental Activities**

WHEREAS, nationally, tooth decay is the most prevalent preventable chronic disease in children, with 78 % of those under 18 experiencing dental caries, according to the Surgeon General's May 2000 Report on Oral Health in America; and

WHEREAS, oral health is an integral and essential component of overall health which enhances children's readiness to learn and future success in employment; and

WHEREAS, social behavior, cultural geographic, environmental and economic factors contribute to most oral health problems; and

WHEREAS, fewer than one in five Medicaid-eligible children receive dental services and low-income children suffer more tooth decay and go without treatment for almost 50% of their tooth decay; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Southern Health Association supports preventive activities such as water fluoridation, dental sealants and smoking prevention and cessation programs, especially for those communities most in need; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Southern Health Association supports initiatives, public and private, at the federal, state and local levels to increase surveillance and access to dental services and education about oral health issues; to increase surveillance and access to dental services and education about oral health issues to understand communities; and encourage state and federal funders to use all opportunities to reduce disparities in the oral health status of children; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Southern Health Association supports efforts to increase utilization of services by Medicaid-eligible children by state Children's Health Insurance Plans (CHIP) or other state plan options and encourages dentist to participate in such programs; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Affiliate States Governor, the Secretary of the Cabinet of Health Services, the Commissioner for the Department of Public Health and members of the General assembly.

Ted Hanekamp, President
Southern Health Association

May 5, 2006
Date