



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, the mouth is considered the gateway to the body, and it affects overall health and well-being. Its maintenance is essential to speech, mastication, expression of emotions and self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, a fundamental aspect of dental hygiene is patient education to improve and maintain good dental health, including prevention of dental caries and periodontal disease; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative for all to adopt a daily oral care routine to help prevent cavities and periodontal disease; and

WHEREAS, poor oral health may contribute to various diseases and conditions; and

WHEREAS, preventive dental visits are important for expectant mothers since periodontal disease is a contributor of low birth weight and preterm births; and

WHEREAS, low birth weight and preterm births before 37 weeks of pregnancy contribute to infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, dental hygienists can educate expectant parents about preventing stillbirth by providing education on the signs of potential problems; and

WHEREAS, in an inaugural, collaborative campaign, dental providers statewide are taking an active role in promoting the evidence-based initiative, Count the Kicks, to educate parents on the preventative measures regarding premature births and fetal deaths to preserve lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim December 2022, as

Count the Kicks Month

in the state of Alabama.



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City
of Montgomery on the 17th day of November 2022.*

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor