



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

PAT QUINN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

September 28, 2005

Dear Oral Health Advocates,

Dental pain and deterioration continue to be real problems for thousands of Illinois residents, despite marked improvements in oral health over the past 50 years. That's why we need your help in making sure everyone has access to decent oral health care – no matter a patient's age or financial standing – during "Healthy Smiles Week."

"Healthy Smiles Week" is an oral health education week where oral health providers and partners across the state offer free and reduced-cost dental services to families in need. One key component to this year's event will be highlighting new oral health legislation requiring dental exams to Kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grade students.

October is *National Dental Hygiene Month* and *Children Health Month*. As Lt. Governor, it is my honor to recognize the week of October 10, 2005 as "Healthy Smiles Week" in Illinois. During this week, I invite you all to lend your expertise and get involved.

The University of Illinois at Chicago and Southern Illinois University Schools of Dentistry will provide free screening services to school age children. We are also encouraging all Community Health Centers and dental service centers to participate to help make the public aware of new developments in dental health and the current oral health mandate required of students in grades Kindergarten, 2, and 6.

Dental disease is an education issue, a public health issue and economic issue facing every Illinois citizen, and much more needs to be done to battle this growing epidemic.

Through advocacy and education, "Healthy Smiles Week" is a great way we can help improve oral health in Illinois, one child at a time. Please direct any inquiries and suggestions to Lisa Hernandez in my office at 312-814-5456 or Lisa_Hernandez@ltgov.state.il.us

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn
Lieutenant Governor