

# CITY OF SPOKANE



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spokane recognizes that every child born and raised in the city should have equitable opportunity to reach their full potential and oral health is essential to overall health and vital to children's ability to grow, thrive and learn; and

**WHEREAS**, the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry program, which has become a national model for increasing young children's access to dental care, began as an innovation in the City of Spokane more than 20 years ago, when dentists and pediatricians partnered to address tooth decay in their young patients; and

**WHEREAS**, children of color and children from lower-income households disproportionately face barriers to accessing preventive oral health care and early dental treatment and children who are unable to access dental care often suffer devastating effects of poor oral health and oral disease, including painful cavities, lower school attendance, malnutrition, low self-esteem, diminished employment opportunities later in life, and in some cases, life-threatening health consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spokane supports expanding access to dental services for children through dental and medical clinics, community health centers, and school-based sealant programs. Strategic partnerships with organizations like Smile Spokane, Spokane Regional Health District, and Spokane District Dental Society help ensure children living in Spokane experience improved oral health through prevention, early treatment, and public awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, success is realized once all children living in Spokane experience zero health inequities, because not a single child should needlessly suffer from preventable tooth decay and untreated oral disease; supporting efforts to provide oral health care for all children and achieving health equity is necessary for our shared future, because healthy children grow up to be healthy adults:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim February 2025 as

### CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

in Spokane and encourage all residents to support efforts that expand oral health care access for children and address barriers that prevent them from getting the care they need to live healthy, pain-free, and productive lives.

I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of Spokane,  
do hereunto set my hand and  
cause the seal of the City of Spokane  
to be affixed this  
20th day of February 2025.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Lisa Brown".

Lisa Brown  
Mayor

