

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** Prosthodontics, an American Dental Association recognized specialty, encompasses diagnosing, treatment planning, restoring and replacing the natural teeth to rehabilitate and maintain the function, comfort, appearance and health of patients; and
- WHEREAS:** Tooth loss can be caused by decay, gum disease, traumatic injury, cancer or wear. Losing teeth places stress on the mouth's structures and shape, causing the bone to shrink, possibly changing a person's facial appearance; and
- WHEREAS:** Many adults who do not replace their missing teeth suffer poor self-esteem, premature aging, poor diet, loss of function and social embarrassment, but by utilizing dental implants, fixed bridgework, removable partial dentures and complete dentures, a prosthodontists' expertise can change a smile and a life; and
- WHEREAS:** Prosthodontists undergo three years of additional training after dental school in the prevention and treatment of tooth loss; and
- WHEREAS:** Prosthodontists have a highly skilled understanding of the dynamics of a smile, the preservation of a healthy mouth and the creation of tooth replacements; and
- WHEREAS:** Prosthodontists also maintain a strong commitment to the dental health care needs of older patients, individuals with congenital anomalies, and those who have been affected by oral cancer, with many providing pro bono care to their local communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Prosthodontists are represented by the American College of Prosthodontists, an educational and scientific association founded in 1970 to represent the needs and interests of prosthodontists within organized dentistry, and to the public by providing a means for stimulating awareness and interest in the field of prosthodontics; and
- WHEREAS:** The American College of Prosthodontists' mission is to provide the highest quality of patient care, work closely with other dental professionals to provide the most comprehensive and effective treatments, and improve the quality of patients' lives.

**NOW,
THEREFORE:** I, Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **March 7 – March 13, 2010** to be

NATIONAL PROSTHODONTICS AWARENESS WEEK

In Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, February 19, 2010.



Theodore R. Kulongoski
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Kate Brown
Kate Brown, Secretary of State