**SB 5241**

**ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR MICHIGAN**

**HB 5241 INITITATES A PROCESS THAT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CHILDREN**

**WE, AS REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENISTS, ARE THE PREVENTIVE EXPERTS OF THE DENTAL PROFESSION**

**WE ARE PASSSIONATE ABOUT ORAL HEALTH**

**ORAL DISEASE CAN BE CRIPPLING TO A YOUNG CHILD**

**I HAVE EXPERIENCED, AS MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE, HOW DENTAL DISEASE EFFECTS CHILDREN. DIFFICULTY EATING, SLEEPING AND AFFECTING THEIR OVERALL HEALTH.**

**HAVE YOU SEEN A CHILD TRYING TO CHEW WHEN IT’S PAINFUL TO BITE DOWN?**

**PRIMARY TEETH (BABY TEETH) ARE THE CORNER STONES LEADING TO A HEALTHY ADULT MOUTH.**

**THEY PROVIDE THE ABILITY TO CHEW AND DIGEST OUR FOOD, SPEAK CLEARLY AND PROVIDE IMPORTANT SPACING FOR THE PERMANENT TEETH**

**HOW CAN WE EXPECT THEM LEARN WHEN THEY ARE FACING THESE CHALLENGES?**

**THIS IS A SILENT DISEASE UNTIL IT BECOMES SEVERE.**

 **SCREENING THESE CHILDREN GIVES THE REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY TO**

1. **PROPOSE PREVENTIVE TREATMENT SUCH AS CLEANINGS, FLUORIDE TREATMENTS, HOMECARE AND NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN**
2. **EARLY DIAGNOSIS LEADING TO TREATMENT OF DENTAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME SIGNIFICANT**
3. **ADVICE FOR PROPER TREATMENT IN SEVERE CASES OF DISEASE**

**THE MICHIGAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS’ ASSOCIATION IS VERY THANKFUL TO REPRESENTATIVE VAN SINGEL AND ALL THE BILL CO SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AS WE WORK TOWARD IMPROVED OVERALL HEALTH AND PREPARE OUR YOUNG SCHOOL CHILDREN TO LEARN**

**WE URGE YOU TO PASS HB 5241**