

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE AT FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY TO ADDRESS THE ORAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF FLORIDA'S RURAL AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, the Pew Center on the States in February 2010 issued a report entitled "The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children"; and,

WHEREAS, Pew assessed and graded all fifty states and the District of Columbia on eight oral health categories and Florida was only one of six states to receive an "F" grade, passing only two of the eight benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs; and,

WHEREAS, the Pew study also determined that less than a quarter of Florida's children have access to dental services and that the Sunshine State faces a severe dental workforce shortage and needs at least 750 new dentists -- almost one-tenth of all of the new dentist needed nationwide -- to provide care to underserved citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Florida has only 49.4 dentists per 100,000 residents, according to the Florida Department of Health; and,

WHEREAS, high quality oral health has been linked to good overall health and the prevention of heart disease; and,

WHEREAS, a lack of oral health care has been linked to diabetes, respiratory diseases, pregnancy problems, and other health care issues; and,

WHEREAS, Florida A&M University has a longstanding history in health education dating back to 1936; and operates a School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, School of Allied Health, and an Institute of Public Health; and,

WHEREAS, Florida A&M University has undertaken a rural health care initiative to address some of the critical health care shortages in Florida's rural and underserved communities by creating strategic partnerships with local governments, county health departments, federally qualified health clinics, hospitals, safety net clinics, and other health providers; and,

WHEREAS, Florida A&M University proposes to establish dental clinics in rural and underserved areas of our state and to help expand the offering of existing county health departments, federally qualified health clinics, safety net clinics, and hospitals; and,

WHEREAS, preventive care saves city, county, and state dollars designated for health care;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) The County supports the goals and ideals of the establishment of a College of Dental Medicine at Florida A&M University and its rural health care initiative; and,
- (2) Calls upon the Florida Board of Governors to authorize the establishment of a College of Dental Medicine at Florida A&M University; and,
- (3) Calls upon the Florida Legislature to provide appropriate funding to establish a College of Dental Medicine at Florida A&M University, with the understanding that the school will be created with the expressed purpose to address the needs of rural and underserved populations within our state.

ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2011.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
John Dailey, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
Bob Inzer, Clerk
Leon County, Florida

By: _____
Herbert W.A. Thiele
County Attorney