



Kentucky Public Health Association

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Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

On behalf of the Kentucky Public Health Association, we write today with concerns regarding proposals to transition water fluoridation decisions to local regulators, ceding oversight from the state level.

Municipal water systems whose fluoride concentrations are adjusted to the CDC recommended level reduce dental decay by up to 25% of the user population. Currently, water fluoridation is a state-regulated program that oversees fluoride adjustment in 99.8% of Kentucky's water systems. Dental decay is a statewide problem (especially in children) therefore Kentucky needs a statewide policy that can address this chronic disease. Community Water Fluoridation benefits children and adults across all income levels, geographic locations, and is a population-based practice that implements equity in all aspects of the fluoridation program and its impact. Kentucky water fluoridation costs about forty-two cents per person, per year and results in cost avoidance (in dental care) of about \$16 per person per year.

Respectfully, as legislation has yet to be formally introduced for the 2023 session, we will reserve comment pending review of those bills. We ask that in your discussions you consider the real, and tangible, health benefits to these policies.

Sincerely,

Kentucky Public Health Association