



October 22, 2024
Interim Joint Committee on State Government Members
702 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

SUBJECT: Support of community water fluoridation programs.

Dear Members of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government,

As a collective group of concerned healthcare providers, business leaders, active community members, and oral health advocates, we write you today regarding discussion of water fluoridation programs. For over 70 years, public water providers have had a direct connection to improving the oral health of Kentucky children and adults through fluoridation of the public drinking water supply. This regulation has been a safe, reliable, cost-effective preventive measure to keep teeth strong and reduce cavities by at least 25%. With our unifying interest to improve the oral health for all people in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, we are deeply concerned about any efforts to remove water fluoridation programs in our communities.

Fluoride benefits children and adults across income levels and throughout their lifespan. Additionally, as a state with growing healthcare costs, an analysis of Medicaid claims in three states found that children living in fluoridated communities had lower treatment costs related to tooth decay than did similar children living in non-fluoridated communities. Fluoridation not only saves money, but it allows children and adults to learn and work pain-free.

Despite our historic issues with poor oral health in Kentucky, we have made strides towards improvement in oral health by leading the nation with 99% of Kentucky communities with water fluoridation programs. We as a Commonwealth cannot afford to move backward. **We strongly urge you to support continued community water fluoridation in the interest of oral health in the Commonwealth of Kentucky!**

Sincerely,

Delta Dental of Kentucky
Kentucky Dental Association
Kentucky Dental Hygienists' Association
Kentucky Oral Health Coalition
Kentucky Primary Care Association
Kentucky Voices for Health
Louisville Water Company