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As a current dental student I have received many lectures on fluoride and its importance in oral health. I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining fluoride in our community's public water supply. Numerous peer-reviewed studies, as well as decades of real-world data, show that communities with fluoridated water have significantly lower rates of tooth decay across all age groups compared to those without it. But the benefits of fluoridation go beyond just oral health—they also touch on health equity.

Access to regular dental care is not equal across socioeconomic groups. People in lower-income communities often face barriers such as cost, lack of dental insurance, and fewer available dental providers. For these individuals and families, fluoridated water is sometimes the only form of consistent dental care they receive. In this way, fluoridation acts as a powerful equalizer—it doesn't require a prescription, a trip to the dentist, or a copay. It reaches everyone, regardless of income, education, or background.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), water fluoridation has been named one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. This is because of its profound impact in reducing the prevalence and severity of dental disease, especially in vulnerable populations.

Removing fluoride from our public water would disproportionately harm the very people who already face the greatest barriers to dental care. It would increase the burden of disease, raise healthcare costs, and deepen existing health disparities.

Let's continue to protect our community's health with science-based, proven measures. Let's keep fluoride in our water.

Thank you.