

April 21, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee of Health and Human Services:

My name is David Kerr, and I am a dentist practicing in Portland and have been involved in dental public policy for many years. I am opposing LD1570.

While there are numerous studies showing the benefits of fluoride in significantly reducing dental decay, I will address the recent concern of studies citing that IQ is reduced in areas of fluoridated water.

Much of this information is based on a review monograph released by the National Toxicology Program in August of 2024 on fluoride and neurodevelopment. There were 72 studies they reviewed on the association between fluoride and neurodevelopment. Three quarters of these studies were judged to be of low quality and high risk of bias. Most of these studies were also outside of the United States in areas of high pollution and high fluoride concentrations which may also be affecting the IQ of children. As well as meta-analysis showed that there was no correlation between fluoride at normal community levels and decreased IQ.

In Calgary, Canada where they discontinued fluoridation in 2011, there was a 47% rate of increase in decay of second graders in a few years.

Public fluoridation is one of the most successful public health interventions implemented. As a practicing dentist I have seen the differences in decayed teeth of the those that had community fluoride and those that have not. There is also a downstream cost as a tooth once restored will have to be restored again as our dental materials are not a permanent solution. With Maine having a shortage of dentists already this will only exacerbate the problem.

I urge you not to support this LD1570.

Sincerely,

David R Kerr, D.D.S.