

Testimony From the Maine Academy of General Dentistry

**In Opposition to LD 1570 – *An Act to Prohibit Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply*
April 21, 2025**

To the Honorable Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

On behalf of the Maine Academy of General Dentistry (ME AGD), which represents more than 600 general dentists across our state, we write to express our strong opposition to LD 1570, legislation that proposes a sweeping ban on public water fluoridation in Maine.

This bill threatens to dismantle one of the most effective, evidence-based public health tools we have in dentistry. Water fluoridation has been instrumental in reducing dental disease across all age groups, particularly among children, seniors, and low-income populations who may not have access to consistent preventive care.

The scientific support for fluoridation is both long-standing and irrefutable:

- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) named community water fluoridation one of the Top 10 Public Health Achievements of the 20th Century.**
- **A 2018 Cochrane Review and a 2021 study in the *Journal of Dental Research* confirmed reductions in dental caries of 20–35% in fluoridated communities.**
- **When Calgary, Alberta ceased fluoridation in 2011, a 2016 study published in *Public Health* showed a 47% increase in cavities in children within just a few years.**

LD 1570 would remove this safeguard across the board without offering a viable, economical, or evidence-supported alternative. It does so not in response to new science, but amid a wave of misinformation that ignores decades of data and public health outcomes. From our vantage point as clinicians, this is not just poor policy—it's dangerous.

We see firsthand the cost of untreated dental disease. We see children in pain, seniors struggling to eat, and families unable to afford basic restorative care. Fluoridation has quietly worked in the background for over 70 years to reduce this burden. Removing it would massively hurt the people we serve, and it would do so under the false pretense of precaution.

Until credible, peer-reviewed science demonstrates that the risks of fluoridation outweigh its benefits, this policy shift is unjustifiable. In fact, by abandoning fluoridation, we will increase risk and disease prevalence, all while ignoring the advice of nearly every major medical and scientific organization in the country.

We urge this committee to reject LD 1570 and stand with science, with patients, and with the health of Maine's communities.

Respectfully submitted,
Maine Academy of General Dentistry
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