



**Consumers for
Affordable
Health Care**

Advocating the right to quality, affordable
health care for all Mainers.

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Testimony in Opposition to LD 1570
An Act to Prohibit Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply
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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. I am Ann Woloson, Executive Director at Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC). I am here today to provide testimony in opposition to LD 1570, An Act to Prohibit Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply.

CAHC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates the right to quality, affordable health care for every person in Maine. CAHC serves as Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), which operates a toll-free HelpLine. Our HelpLine fielded over 7,200 calls and emails last year from people across Maine who needed help obtaining, keeping, using, or fixing problems with private health insurance or with accessing or affording health care services. CAHC also serves as the Ombudsman program for Maine's Medicaid program, MaineCare, and helps people apply for and navigate the enrollment process for MaineCare. It is with that background that we provide these comments.

LD 1570 seeks to prohibit a public water system from adding fluoride to its water supply. We oppose this bill given research showing the benefits of fluoridation, including the Center for Disease Control statement (CDC) on the evidence regarding the safety and benefits of community water fluoridation as an effective, cost-efficient method for preventing tooth decay and improving overall oral health.¹

Our Helpline staff often hear from people seeking assistance with finding an oral health provider for preventive care or care to alleviate an oral health issue, including pain or infection. With exception to one, parts of all Maine counties are designated as being a dental care health professional shortage area.² As you might imagine, it is incredibly frustrating having to share resources, including a list of dental clinics throughout the state, that we know likely have long waiting lists to see new patients. It is even more

¹ [CDC Scientific Statement on Community Water Fluoridation | Fluoridation | CDC](#)

² [Map of Health Professional Shortage Areas: Dental Care, by County, April 2025 - Rural Health Information Hub](#)

frustrating when the only option some people have is to go to a hospital emergency department to be seen but in most cases, not treated for the oral health care they need.

The CDC also cites research showing water fluoridation is beneficial for reducing and controlling tooth decay and promoting oral health across the lifespan and that by preventing tooth decay, community water fluoridation has been shown to save money, both for families and the health care system.³

Please oppose LD 1570. Thank you.

³ Ibid 1.