

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and the Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Whitney Wignall and I am a board-certified pediatric dentist with over 20 years of experience working in the greater Portland area. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation that seeks to remove fluoride from our community's public water supply.

Water fluoridation is one of the most effective and equitable public health measures of the last century. Since its implementation, countless studies and decades of scientific research have shown that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water significantly reduce the incidence of tooth decay in both children and adults. This benefit spans across income levels, racial and ethnic groups, and geographic regions.

Fluoridation is especially critical for children, many of whom do not have regular access to dental care or fluoride treatments. According to the CDC, fluoridated water can reduce cavities in children by 25%, and it continues to protect against decay throughout adulthood. Removing fluoride from our water would disproportionately harm our most vulnerable populations, contributing to higher rates of preventable dental disease.

I understand that some people have concerns about additives in our water, but the fluoride levels currently used in public water systems are carefully regulated, safe, and recommended by trusted medical and dental organizations worldwide, including the American Dental Association, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Please, do not reverse decades of progress by eliminating one of the most cost-effective tools we have to keep our community healthy.

I urge you to reject this bill and protect the oral health of our residents, especially our children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Whitney R. Wignall
Diplomate, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry
State Representative, Northeast Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Fellow, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Fellow, International College of Dentists