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4/22/2025

Senator Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1570 – *An Act to Prohibit Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide information in opposition to LD 1570, *An Act to Prohibit Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply*.

This bill prohibits a public water system from adding fluoride to its water supply. A person who intentionally violates that prohibition commits a civil violation and is subject to a fine of \$1,000 per day.

The Maine CDC Drinking Water Program (DWP) is opposed to this bill on the grounds that it is premature to enact a major statewide policy change on this issue at this time. The federal DHHS is currently reconvening the Community Preventative Services Task Force to study and issue a new recommendation on fluoride. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, Lee Zeldin, recently announced plans to re-examine research on the potential risks associated with fluoride in drinking water.

Under existing rules, the decision to add or not add fluoride to drinking water in Maine is a local decision, in the hands of each Public Water System (PWS). Currently, 62 PWSs (out of approximately 1900 in Maine) are adding fluoride, and maintaining levels at or around the recommended level of 0.7 parts per million (ppm). The DWP ensures that if this choice is made, the fluoride treatment is carried out appropriately.

Based on current science, prohibiting fluoride addition will have negative oral health implications, particularly in children, which will result in higher MaineCare costs associated with increased dental treatment costs and increased frequency of avoidable emergency department visits for oral health problems. The DWP maintains that the decision to add fluoride to drinking water for oral health purposes should remain a local decision, subject to a resident vote for municipalities.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Va.", is positioned above the typed name.

Puthiery Va, DO

Director

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Maine Department of Health and Human Services