

Committee on Health & Human Services
Tuesday April 22, 2025 RM 209 1 PM

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

**Good Afternoon Senator Henry Ingwersen, Rep Michele Meyer and
members of the Committee on Health & Human services**

My name is Bonnie Vaughan IPDH, MEd, MBA. I am a dental hygienist and currently I am Executive Director of Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry, in Augusta. This is a nonprofit dental center serving adults and children. Daily we see patients with extensive dental disease.

I am supporting the “Ought Not TO Pass” on LD 1570. **Community water fluoridation has been recognized by the US & Maine’s CDC as one of the 10 great public health achievements in the 20th century. Norway Maine was the first town fluoridated in 1952.** It has been fluoridated for 73 years with great success. Maine has more than 132 towns fluoridated. Community Water fluoridation benefits everyone in the community, regardless of age and socioeconomic status, and provides protection against tooth decay in populations with limited access to preventive services.

The Maine Dental Hygienist Association strongly urge you to vote OUGHT NOT to PASS (ONTP) LD 1570. Include is testimony from the past president of the MDHA. Ms Klug is a dental hygienist practicing in Ellsworth for more than 30 years. Ellsworth that has been fluoridated since 1969. That’s 56 yrs. Over the years she has seen a significant reduction in tooth decay in her patients.

Thank you for your time and interest in hearing our opposition to LD 1570. I would be glad to answer questions and attend your work session.

Bonnie Vaughan IPDH, Med, MBA bssvaughan@msn.com,

Maine Communities With Fluoridated Water Supplies And Years Started

Anson	1983	Guilford	1972	Scarborough (Pine Point)	1988
Arundel	2004	Hampden	1965	Scarborough	1997
Ashland	1966	Hartland	2002	Skowhegan	1973
Auburn	1969	Heron	1967	Southport	2003
Augusta	1997	Holden	1967	South Freeport	2000
Baileyville	1955	Houlton	1968	South Gardiner	1962
Bangor	1967	Hulls Cove	1963	South Portland	1997
Bar Harbor	1963	Indian Island	1963	Springvale	1972
Bath	1969	Indian Township	1984	Standish	1997
Belfast	1960	Island Falls	1967	Thomaston	1969
Benton	1965	Kennebunk	2004	Topsham	1955
Berwick	2003	Kennebunkport	2004	Van Buren	1967
Bethel	1970	Lewiston	1970	Vassalboro (part)	1965
Biddeford	1988	Limestone	1987	Vassalboro	1997
Biddeford (Biddeford Pool & Fortunes' Rocks)	2004	Lubec	1972	Veazie	1962
Blaine	1971	Machias	1966	Waldoboro *	
Boothbay	2003	Madawaska	1960	Warren *	
Boothbay Harbor	2003	Madison	1983	Washburn	1961
Bradley	1963	Manchester	1997	Waterville	1965
Brewer	1967	Mars Hill	1971	Wells	2004
Bridgton	1963	Mechanic Falls	1971	West Bath	1969
Brunswick	1955	Medway	1966	Westbrook	1997
Bucksport	1969	Mexico	1967	Westfield (part)	1971
Camden	1969	Milford	1963	Windham	1997
Cape Elizabeth	1997	Millinocket	1960	Winslow	1965
Caribou	1959	Monmouth	2001	Winterport	1973
Chelsea	1997	Newcastle	1971	Winthrop (part)	1972
Clifton	1967	Newport	1972	Winthrop ("East")	1997
Cumberland	1997	Northport	1998	Wiscasset	1989
Damariscotta	1971	Norway	1952	Woolwich	1969
Dexter	1984	Oakland	1994	York (part)	2004
Dover-Foxcroft	2000	Ogunquit	2004		
Dixfield	1971	Old Orchard Beach	1988	Notes:	
Eagle Lake	1974	Old Town	1963	* = Community water supplies with naturally occurring fluoride	
East Millinocket	1966	Orono	1962		
Eastport	1969	Orrington (part)	1967	Communities listed by name indicates that all citizens served by the community water supply receive fluoridated water (0.7 ppm).	
Eddington	1967	Owls Head	1969		
Ellsworth	1969	Pittsfield	1965	Those communities listed with "(part)" indicate either that different parts of the community implemented fluoridation at different times, or that not all citizens served by the public water supply receive fluoridated water because the community is served by more than one water supply.	
Embden	1981	Pittston	1973		
Fairfield	1965	Pleasant Point	1969	Provided by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health & Human Services 3/2022	
Falmouth	1997	Portland	1997		
Farmingdale	1973	Presque Isle	1960		
Fort Fairfield	1959	Randolph	1973		
Fort Kent	1972	Raymond	2002		
Freeport	2000	Rockland	1969		
Friendship *		Rockport	1969		
Fryeburg	1971	Rumford	1959		
Gardiner	1973	Saco	1988		
Gorham	1997	Salisbury Cove	1983		
Greening Island	1959	Sanford	1972		
		Sangerville	1972		

For more information, contact:
Oral Health Program
287-5562





Maine
DENTAL HYGIENISTS'
ASSOCIATION

4/20/25

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

I'm writing as the Immediate Past President and Legislative Chair of the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association as well as a clinical dental hygienist of almost 30 years in the same fluoridated community of Ellsworth. I strongly urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass (ONTP) on LD 1570: An Act To Prohibit Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply.

There are 2 ways to get fluoride for your teeth. The first is systemic fluoride which is incorporated into the adult teeth as they are forming and this is from community water fluoridation. It is one of the most effective public health measures of the last century. The 2nd is topical fluoride which is from your toothpastes and rinses. This is also important but even better when you have the benefit of the systemic fluoride as well. There has been a lot of discussion regarding fluoride especially since the appointment of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the Health and Human Services Secretary. Please keep in mind that the studies that Mr. Kennedy cites were done with toxic fluoride levels significantly higher than in fluoridated public water. Anything in large amounts can be toxic, even vitamins that we consume every day. That's why there are rules and regulations in place for safe dosages. Many people would be shocked to know that their wells have more fluoride than fluoridated water and that they shouldn't be drinking it. We should focus more on those unsafe levels of fluoride rather than the safe controlled amounts in community water.

In my personal experience I can say beyond a doubt that water fluoridation has prevented decay in our community. We sometimes see decay in the baby teeth but the adult teeth are a different story. So many who have grown up with water fluoridation will never see a cavity in their lifetime or they have minimal decay. It is truly amazing and I only wish I was in this group of folks who has experienced this. I grew up in Calais which has never been fluoridated and had my fill of cavities as a teenager.

Please support Maine's long-standing commitment to oral health and vote ONTP on LD 1570.

Sincerely,

Lorraine P. Klug, RDH,IPDH
Maine Dental Hygienists' Association
Immediate Past President
Legislative Chair



A tale of two cities finds that community water fluoridation prevents caries

by David Burger

August 10, 2021

The prevalence of caries in the primary dentition of children was significantly higher in Calgary, Canada, without fluoridated water, than in Edmonton, where the water is still fluoridated, according to a study published by the journal *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology*.

Calgary and Edmonton are the two largest cities in the province of Alberta, with a population of about 1.2 million and 932,500, respectively. In Calgary, fluoridation began in 1991 and ceased in 2011, and fluoridation has existed in Edmonton since 1967.

"We concluded that our findings were consistent with a short-term adverse effect of fluoridation cessation on children's dental caries experience, and on social inequities in children's dental caries experience," wrote the researchers from the Department of