

Lasorsa, Megan

From: Amber Lombardi <amber@mainelyteeth.org>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 10:29 AM
To: Cmte HHS
Subject: Please Vote ONTP on LD 1570 and Protect Community Water Fluoridation

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I'm writing as a dental health professional to urge you to vote **Ought Not to Pass (ONTP)** on **LD 1570: An Act To Prohibit Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply**.

I have worked providing public health dental care across Maine in all 16 counties for the last eight years. Before coming to Maine, I spent countless years researching, and tracking outcomes for underserved/underinsured populations across the United States and in third world countries. Public water fluoridation works. It will affect not only the most vulnerable individuals in our communities, but our already struggling healthcare system. I urge you to think about the most vulnerable populations when making your vote. We are protecting ALL Mainers, especially developing youth that do not have access to care. Drinking public water is a CHOICE. There are other water options for those that do not want fluoridated water.

I currently serve approximately 8,000 patients on MaineCare with a 4,000 person waitlist. I run two mobile dental clinics and two brick-and-mortar offices serving 85% Medicaid patients. Maine already lacks the provider numbers/infrastructure around the state to address current dental disparities. We need to keep as many tools in our tool belt as possible. I see this as a moral obligation to keep our children and neighbors safe. I have seen first hand the benefits of fluoride and how it keeps communities healthy and how fluoride can change the trajectory of ones oral health journey and impact overall health.

Community water fluoridation is one of the most effective public health measures of the last century. It prevents tooth decay, reduces health disparities, and saves money—about **\$20 in dental costs for every \$1 invested according to the CDC**. Adjusting fluoride levels in water to support oral health is safe, thoroughly studied, and endorsed by every major public health and medical organization.

Children, especially those in low-income families, benefit the most. Fluoridation helps keep kids in school and out of pain by preventing the number one chronic disease of childhood: tooth decay.

Please support Maine's long-standing commitment to oral health, and the work of this committee over the past several legislative sessions, and vote **ONTP on LD 1570**.

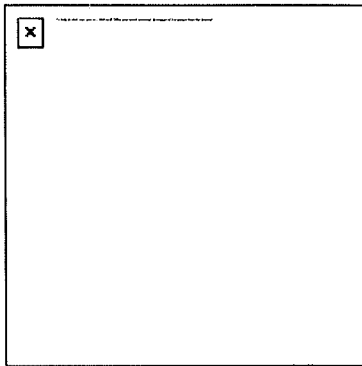
Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

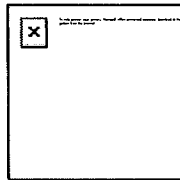
Amber Lombardi, BSDH, RDH, IPDH

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Oral Health Provider



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Mainely Teeth's mission is to break down barriers to oral health care and provide access to quality, compassionate dental care to individuals, families, and communities. We believe that quality oral health care is a basic human right, not a privilege.

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