

Lasorsa, Megan

From: Kellie Stanhope <maryk38@tds.net>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 11:07 AM
To: Cmte HHS
Subject: Please Vote ONTP on LD1570-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 hygienist who has practiced in private practice, public health and a clinical educator in the state of Maine continuously over the last 45 years. I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass (ONTP) on LD 1570: An Act To Prohibit Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply.

This bill will negatively impact the oral health of children and families in Maine.

In my clinical experience it was obvious when working with several different communities what patients grew up with fluoridated water and who did not based on the amount of caries, tooth loss and aggressive restorative treatment they received. Water fluoridation is a safe and effective method for reducing dental caries throughout our lifespan, starting at birth. Water fluoridation helps reduce tooth decay and alleviate the broader burden of dental disease. Removing fluoride would bring financial consequences to family budgets by having to treat preventable cavities.

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,

Kellie A Stanhope RDH, IPDH, BSDH, EFDA
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