

Lasorsa, Megan

From: Breeana Blalock <bblalock@ccmaine.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 1:47 PM
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 parent and 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**.

My child had to wait 6 months to get access to a dental visit when they were under the age of 2, and the first few years of physical development impact the lifetime of their growth. Having fluoridated water provided a safety net to strengthen my child's teeth until they could be seen by a dental hygienist and dentist. Additionally, in my role in refugee health promotion I am made aware verbally and through confidential health records of the severe dental needs youth are presenting with. 427 youth 0-18 years old were resettled in Maine during 2024 and so far from October 2025 til now, 227 youth aged 0-18 have resettled. Many of whom have to wait months and years for a dentist or their school does not participate in the school oral health program through Maine CDC. If it were not for fluoridated water their pain and oral health would have severely worsened as well as their overall health, not to mention more money spent on emergency room visits for emergency oral health pain management.

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,

Breeana Blalock
Portland, Maine
Parent, Social Worker, Refugee Health Administrator