

## FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

February 24, 2016

Connecticut General Assembly - Public Health Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: HB 5350 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON FLUORIDATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**

Dear Senator Gerrantana, Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee:

I am pleased to learn that the Public Health Committee has raised a bill to continue the requirement to add fluoride in public water supplies. This bill will optimize the **community water fluoridation to the level recommended by the US Department of Health and Human Services**. Please support HB 5350, An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations on Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply.

I am the Program Planner for Opportunity Knocks for Middletown's Young Children, a community collaborative which includes more than 60 members, an early childhood public health initiative. Since 2003 we have been working together to ensure that all Middletown children and physically and emotionally healthy and ready for school success. Poor oral health was identified early in our work, and remains, a community need that prevents our young children from being successful in school.

Yesterday, February 23, 2016, we held a community celebration of the Age One/Well Baby Dental Visit as an important strategy to prevent Early Childhood Caries. Whether a child has regular access to Fluoridated drinking water is among the important risk screening points that we promote. Early Childhood Caries is an unnecessary health problem. We are working very hard to ensure parents and health providers know their role in prevention. Your role in prevention is to ensure that our communities continue to have access to Fluoridated water.

This is the 51<sup>st</sup> year of the passage of the statute that requires optimal levels of fluoride in community water in Connecticut. To further outline the significance of this measure, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) named community water fluoridation as one of the "Ten Great Public Health Achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century".

As a member of the Public Health Committee, I know you share my concern for oral health care measures that affect all of us as a community. **I urge you to support this very important measure that will ensure healthier children and adults in our state.** Thank you for your time and your commitment to the health of all Connecticut citizens.

Sincerely,



Program Planner, Opportunity Knocks for Middletown's Young Children  
monica.belyea@midhosp.org

28 Crescent Street  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457  
tel 860 358-3401  
fax 860 358-3403