Hispanic Health Council

175 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06106
P 860.527.0856
F 860.724.0437

March 3, 2016

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

My name is Jose Ortiz and I am the President and CEO of the Hispanic Health Council. Our mission is to improve the health and social well- being of Latinos and other diverse communities. With that said, I am writing in support of HB 5350 *AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON FLUORIDATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.*

This bill is extremely important as tooth decay is more prominent for Latinos than any other culture group. Becoming familiar with fluoride facts, I learned that fluoride in water prevents tooth decay by providing frequent and consistent contact with low levels of fluoride over the course of a day. Research conducted over the past 10 years – at a time when most people regularly use fluoride toothpaste – continues to show that people living in fluoridated communities have significantly less tooth decay.

This is the 51st 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 20th Century."

As a member of the Public Health Committee, I know that 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 our Connecticut citizens.

Sincerely,

Jose Ortiz
President and CEO
Hispanic Health Council