

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:

As a health provider, 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.

Research shows that children with poor dental health are nearly three times more likely to miss school and are four times more likely to earn lower grades

Although dental caries (tooth decay) is largely preventable, it remains the most common chronic disease of children aged 5 to 17 years. In Connecticut, tooth decay affects:

- 1 out of 5 children, ages 3- 5 years
- 2 out of 5 children, ages 6 – 9 years

Everyday working in a public health setting as a dental hygienist, I see underprivileged children suffer from early childhood dental caries, have high caries risk, and struggle with access to care. Eliminating fluoride from the water will have a negative effect on the child's well being.

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 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.** If I can be of any assistance, please contact me. Thank you for your time and your commitment to the health of all Connecticut citizens.

Sincerely,

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