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**Legislative Testimony  
Public Health Committee**

**SB 5350: An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's  
Recommendation on Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2016  
Steven D. Ureles, DMD, MS**

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Members of the  
Public Health Committee,

It is with great pride and humility that I submit this written testimony in  
support of continued water fluoridation in the State of Connecticut  
water supplies at the recommended level set by the U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services.

As a Senior Partner in a large group practice serving the Community  
of Southeastern Connecticut for over 30 years, we are a group of  
dedicated Pediatric Dentists creating a Dental Home for all children,  
healthy, medically compromised, special needs, and all ranges of Social  
Economic Status, including over 7,600 active children on Title XIX. I  
have been in practice for over 30 years priding ourselves on practicing  
Risk Based Evidence Dentistry implementing and delivering dental care  
according to our Patients' needs and risk of dental disease. We know  
that dental disease remains the most prevalent chronic childhood  
disease in the United States, 5X more common than Asthma and 7X  
more common than Hay Fever ( MMR 2004). The latest National  
Center for Health Statistics, National Health and Nutrition Examination  
( NHANES) for 2011-12 shows caries prevalence in children 2-5 years  
old at 23% of Nation, 6-8 years old 56% ( [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.  
htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm)). Furthermore, 80% of the Caries remains in this Title XIX  
population of lower SES often requiring more extensive treatment  
plans; as well as, decay so extreme that we often end up in the  
Operating Room performing Dental Rehabilitations under General  
Anesthesia in order to manage the child's extensive decay and pain.

I can confidently say that the majority of my mornings are spent  
managing these children with Severe Early Childhood Caries, who  
often present in chronic pain, missing school, not eating well, and  
having poor self esteem. I know of no greater way to prevent dental  
disease, reach the most children in need, with the least amount of out of  
pocket expense, than continuing the fluoridation of our Water Systems.  
In 2000, the U.S> Surgeon General, David Satcher wrote in his report,  
Oral Health in America, " Community Water Fluoridation benefits all  
residents served by community water supplies regardless of their social  
or economic status." I urge you to please continue to support Water  
Fluoridation in Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted;

Steven D. Ureles, DMD, MS