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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Brian Hardin
Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 1510, State Capitol
1445 K Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Chair Hardin:

The Nebraska Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) respectfully requests that you oppose LB 147, that will delete the statutory section requiring towns larger than 1,000 to fluoridate their water. The AGD has long been committed to community water fluoridation as a safe, practical, and cost-effective means of improving oral health and preventing tooth decay.

Regarding the use of fluoride in water supplies, AGD policy states:

When used appropriately, fluoride is safe and effective in preventing and controlling dental caries. Regular use throughout life will help protect teeth against decay. All water supplies, including bottled water, should have appropriate fluoride levels. All fluoridated items, including toothpaste, should be used as recommended by your dentist.

The safety and benefits of fluoride **at the recommended amount** are well documented and have been reviewed comprehensively by scientific and public health organizations in the U.S. and internationally. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), water fluoridation has been shown to reduce tooth decay in children and adults by approximately 25 percent. Based on its contribution to the dramatic decline in tooth decay in the U.S. since the 1960s, the CDC named community water fluoridation one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

The studies that opponents of community water fluoridation tout were not done in the United States and studied the effects of fluoridation levels higher than the recommended amount in the U.S. For a good discussion of the science behind these studies, visit the American Fluoridation Society [website](#).

The AGD, along with many other dental and public health organizations, has worked to promote an approach to dental care that emphasizes prevention of dental disease. Accordingly, community water fluoridation is the most efficient and cost-effective public health measure in preventing dental disease and has been proven to result in cost-savings for taxpayers. [Studies](#) carried out by the CDC show that every \$1 invested in water fluoridation results in \$32.19 savings in dental treatment costs.

As a Senator and policymaker, the most effective measure you can take to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health for the citizens of Nebraska is to support the continuation of community water fluoridation and oppose LB 147.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Penly DDS". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Brian Penly DDS
President - Nebraska Academy of General Dentistry