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### **Community Water Fluoridation**

The Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice (OHNEP) Program is alarmed that the leadership of the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) is alleging that adding fluoride to drinking water poses health risks, such as reduced intelligence in children and cancer. A proposal to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to stop recommending fluoridation in communities nationwide ignore decades of research that consistently demonstrate that optimal community water fluoridation does not pose a detectable risk of cancer or other serious health issues. Poor oral health is associated with painful, disabling, and costly health conditions that impact the ability to eat, sleep, focus, attend school or work, and obtain employment.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found in almost all sources of water. Since 1945, communities have adjusted fluoride in public water supplies to the optimal amount to strengthen tooth enamel and reduce tooth decay. As more and more communities have added fluoride to water supplies, the U.S. has seen a major decline in cavities and other dental problems. Studies consistently show that community water fluoridation reduces tooth decay by 25% in children and adults.

Community water fluoridation has been identified as the most practical and cost-effective method of delivering fluoride to all members of a community regardless of age, education or income. It has been referred to as one of the most widely studied and successful public health initiatives in history.

Organizations all over the world, including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Dental Association (ADA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and, until recently, the CDC have recognized the value of this evidence-based method to prevent dental decay.

We urge this Administration to recognize that promoting oral health and preventing dental disease aligns with their HHS priority to make America healthy again.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Judith Haber'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Judith' being more prominent than the last name 'Haber'.

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