

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE**

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**National Nutrition Consortium
Endorses Fluoridation**

The National Nutrition Consortium has issued a statement praising the use of fluoridation as a means of providing an essential nutrient to the diets of children susceptible to dental caries. The statement is strongly supportive of fluoridation as a public health measure and indicates that delaying implementation of fluoridation denies good dental health to children and encourages further development of dental caries at all ages. The full text of the statement is enclosed.

Enclosure

**Dental Disease Prevention Activity
Bureau of State Services**

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Member Societies

AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL NUTRITION
INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS
SOCIETY FOR NUTRITION EDUCATION
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
FOOD AND NUTRITION BOARD, NATIONAL ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES-NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

December 21, 1976

Statement on Water Fluoridation

The fluoridation of municipal water supplies in the United States has been in effect for a number of years. The use of this system to provide an essential nutrient, fluoride, to the diets of children susceptible to dental caries, who otherwise would have no fluoride, is a most laudable public health development. The National Institute of Dental Research, during many years of study, has demonstrated the effectiveness and safety of the addition of fluoride to community water supplies and has encouraged such use, assuring that a significant reduction of dental caries in children will result. The American Medical Association likewise has endorsed this public health measure.

Recent allegations of the National Health Federation that areas in the United States in which there is fluoridation of community water supplies have a higher incidence of cancer than those without fluoridation have stimulated scientific replies from authoritative and knowledgeable institutions. Such statements indicate clearly that no increase in cancer occurs as a result of water treatment with fluoride. The National Cancer Institute has made a thorough examination of the data on cancer incidence, demonstrating clearly that not only is there no increase, but that some forms of cancer are actually reduced.

The National Nutrition Consortium supports the findings of the National Institute of Dental Research and the National Cancer Institute. It is not in the best interests of the health of the people of the United States to discontinue or to delay utilization of the fluoridation of community water supplies. To delay is to deny good dental health to children and encourage the continued development of dental caries at all ages of the population.

Clearly, prevention of dental caries not only provides better health, but significantly reduces the rapidly increasing costs of health care.