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PRESIDENT CARTER EXPRESSES PERSONAL
AND ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR FLUORIDATION

In a telegram to Dr. Frank Shuler, President of the American Dental Association (A.D.A.) at its annual meeting in Miami, Florida, October 9-12, 1977, President Carter expressed his personal endorsement of fluoridation as a safe effective public health measure and promised the support of his Administration in speeding the time when "all Americans will share in the benefits that modern medicine has made possible."

President Carter's message follows:

I send warm greetings on the occasion of your annual meeting.

The high standards and visible achievements of your profession are the finest testimonial to your diligent and dedicated work.

For more than a quarter of a century, you have carried the banner for fluoridation of our municipal water supplies. You have done so in the face of aggressive and sometimes slanderous campaigns in which even the basic loyalties of fluoridation proponents have been brought into question. Because of your steadfast support, millions of children now enjoy far better dental health. While Governor of Georgia, I had the satisfaction of signing a mandatory fluoridation bill. I believe now, as I believed then, that fluoridation is safe and that it is the most effective public health measure available to improve the Nation's dental health and reduce unnecessary dental health expenditures.

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I congratulate and thank you for your steadfast backing of this and many other worthwhile and important programs, and I call upon you to keep up your good work. I assure you that my Administration will not shirk its responsibility to help to speed the time when all Americans will share in the benefits that modern medicine has made possible.

May I close by wishing you Godspeed and success in carrying out the aims of your annual meeting, and success in the months and years ahead.

Signed / Jimmy Carter

Dental Disease Prevention Activity
Bureau of State Services