

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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PROTOTYPE INFORMATION ON STATE FLUORIDATION LAWS

Frequent requests for various information in connection with state fluoridation laws have prompted the compilation of the enclosed packet. In addition to copies of state laws and regulations, the packet contains two so-called "model" laws. Since the structure of existing state laws varies from state to state, the short-form "model" law appears more appropriate. The long form may serve to suggest areas to be covered by regulations.

Those states interested in, or working on, fluoridation laws should find the campaign analysis items from Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio most helpful. A list of additional references has been included. Differences in state procedures reflect differences in the state statutes, status of fluoridation within the state at time action was initiated, and the state political structure for achieving state laws.

Experience has shown there is no substitute for effective, organized personal contact. The manual Fluoridation for Your Community and Your State, available from the American Dental Association, 211 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois will help citizens organizing for state action. Whether or not Citizens' Committees are organized will depend upon the local situation, but broad-based, active citizen support is important both in obtaining and maintaining state laws. Extensive fluoridation within a state, including fluoridation of major cities such as existed in Illinois and Minnesota, can help to reflect citizen interest and support for fluoridation.

Fact sheets which anticipate and refute opponent arguments appear to have been a basic item in most campaigns. While the national fluoridation picture is impressive, States report that promotional documents, fact sheets, and testimony should relate the benefits of fluoridation to the local situation. For example, the cost of extensive welfare dentistry in one state was a most

telling argument. Labor-management negotiated dental care plans, estimated dollar savings in a large fluoridated community, and tax savings in local Head Start programs were important documents in another state. Titles of some of the items used, which are indicative of their content, are included in the State Law Packet.

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Enclosure:

Fluoridation Laws, State

Distribution:

1 copy to State Dental Directors, State Health Officers, Regional Dental Consultants only.