

**RESOLUTION OF THE
TENNESSEE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

REGARDING FLUORIDATION OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, oral health is an essential and integral component to health throughout life;
and

WHEREAS, dental caries is the most common chronic disease of childhood; and

WHEREAS, adjusting the fluoride content of community water supplies is the single most effective public health measure to prevent dental caries and benefits individuals of all ages, races, and socioeconomic strata; and

WHEREAS, health disparities are exacerbated by the lack of community programs such as community water fluoridation; and

WHEREAS, every \$1 invested in this preventive measure yields \$38 savings in dental treatment costs; and

WHEREAS, 346 public water systems in Tennessee currently supply optimally fluoridated water to an estimated 4.9 million residents which represents greater than 96 percent of the population served by the public water systems; and

WHEREAS, community water fluoridation is endorsed by virtually every major national and international organization concerned with health and safety; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognized fluoridation of drinking water as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tennessee Public Health Association, recognizing the public health benefits of community water fluoridation as a safe, economical, and effective measure to prevent dental caries, encourages communities to fluoridate public water supplies to levels optimal for protection against dental caries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Commissioner of Health, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Dental Association, the Tennessee Dental Hygienists Association, the Tennessee Medical Association, the Tennessee Nursing Association, the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts, the Tennessee County Mayors, and the Kentucky-Tennessee Section of the American Water Works Association.

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