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Community water fluoridation benefits everybody, especially those without access to routine dental care. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has proclaimed community water fluoridation as one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. In fact, the U.S. Surgeon General in 2004 determined that “…community water fluoridation continues to be the most cost-effective, equitable and safe means to provide protection from tooth decay in a community. Scientific studies have found that people living in communities with fluoridated water have fewer cavities than those living where the water is not fluoridated.”

The average lifetime cost per person to fluoridate a water supply is less than the cost of one dental filling. For most cities, every $1 invested in water fluoridation saves $38 in dental treatment costs. In the end, community water fluoridation saves money.

Population-based prevention programs are the first line of defense against tooth decay.

Numerous studies have shown that children who drink fluoridated water since birth have 20 to 40 percent less tooth decay than those children who drink from non-fluoridated water supplies. However, fluoridation contributes much more to overall health than simply reducing tooth decay. It prevents needless pain from infection, suffering and loss of teeth, and saves costs associated with dental treatment.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring element in the water, and increasing fluoride to an optimal level simply results in individuals ingesting an amount sufficient to prevent tooth decay. Efforts made by local communities to stop the addition of fluoride to their water systems are often made under the false premise that fluoride causes more harm than good.

Tooth decay remains the single most common chronic disease in children. Population-based prevention programs are the first line of defense against tooth decay. This is why more than 125 national and international organizations, including the American Dental Association, the CDC, the American Medical Association, the World Health Organization and others recognize the public health benefits of community water fluoridation for preventing dental decay. It’s important to note that fluoridation contributes much more to overall health than simply reducing tooth decay. It prevents needless pain from infection, suffering and loss of teeth, and saves significant costs associated with dental treatment.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]