



Partners for a Healthier Community, Inc.

Dear Senator Pacheco and Representative Gobi:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3467, *An Act requiring a fluoride statement*. Partners for a Healthier Community, Inc. opposes this legislation.

Community water fluoridation is a safe and effective preventive measure that can easily be added to public water supplies. Fluoride keeps tooth enamel strong and prevents tooth decay and the serious problems that occur with dental infections. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) considers fluoridation one of the top public health measures, along with pasteurization and water purification. With an average cost of \$.50 per person per year, water fluoridation also saves millions in dental treatment and insurance costs.

Sixty years of scientific research show overwhelmingly that there are no health risks associated with the consumption of optimally fluoridated water. Over 170 million people have been drinking fluoridated water for well over sixty years. Trusted community and professional health authorities such as the US Surgeon General, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society, and the American Dental Association recognize the public health benefits of community water fluoridation.

In order to keep our communities healthy, people all across the Commonwealth should have access to this safe, cost-effective preventive measure. The proposed language would act as a deterrent from drinking and receiving the health benefits of optimally fluoridated water. The city of Milwaukee, WI issues a fluoride statement in the annual water report that relies on the most current science and the fair, balanced reporting of the CDC. The Oral Health Advocacy Taskforce has provided the committee with that language.

OHAT strongly urges the committee to reject HB 3467 as written as a matter of public health. We welcome the opportunity to meet with the committee to discuss alternative language that provides evidence-based information for residents of the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

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