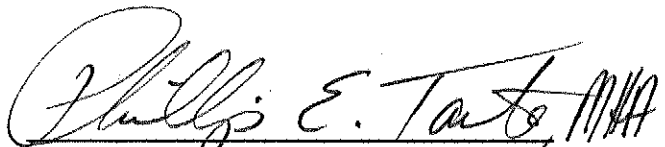


NCPHA RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

- WHEREAS, tooth decay is the most common chronic disease affecting children, five times more common than asthma; by adulthood, tooth decay will affect more than 92 percent of the population, with a smaller proportion developing moderate to severe tooth decay; and
- WHEREAS, certain groups, e.g., those of lower socioeconomic status and underserved groups, are disproportionately affected by dental diseases while having less access to clinical prevention and treatment services; and
- WHEREAS, fluoridation of community water supplies is the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and to improve oral health; and
- WHEREAS, the entire population who have teeth, including adults and older adults, receives substantial oral health benefits from fluoridation; and
- WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has proclaimed community water fluoridation one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century; and
- WHEREAS, fluoridation of community water supplies is supported by the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the World Health Organization and more than 100 other national and international organizations; and
- WHEREAS, credible scientific studies over the past 65 years have repeatedly confirmed the safety of water fluoridation and its effectiveness in preventing dental decay; and
- WHEREAS, community water fluoridation is a public health measure that benefits individuals of all ages and socioeconomic groups, especially those without access to regular dental care; and
- WHEREAS, 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; and
- WHEREAS, North Carolina is a leader in community water fluoridation and the latest figures show that, of those North Carolinians who receive their water from a community water system, 87 percent receive the benefits of fluoridated water. As the size of the population receiving fluoridated water has grown, our statewide dental surveys have documented dramatic improvements in the dental health of our citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that North Carolina Public Health Association hereby offers its support of community water fluoridation for the water supply of North Carolina.

Introduced, Read, Passed, and Adopted this 9th day of January, 2013.


(NCPHA President)


(NCPHA Dental Health Section Chair)