

HB 1605 related to fluoridation of public water supplies

Dear Representative

I am Dr. Bradley King. I was born in Bismarck, raised drinking the public water here and practiced dentistry in Bismarck for 39 years.

Fluoridation of the public water supplies is one of the great public health successes of the 20th century. Billions of dollars have been saved and millions of children and adults have benefited from it. The days of people getting full dentures in their twenties is passed. The state has saved millions in Medicaid payments for dental care. I would occasionally see teenagers walking into my dental office carrying a Mountain Dew. I knew the only thing standing between them full dentures was the fluoride they had had growing up.

Many parts of our state have naturally occurring Fluoride in their drinking water. Some in higher than recommended levels. We have been safely fluoridating the public water systems North Dakota since the 1950s. If it was dangerous as its opponents believe, why are they not here asking for millions of dollars to have it removed from all waters consumed in the state including naturally occurring sources.

If you make it illegal for communities to fluoridate their water, within 6 years, there will not be enough dentists in the state to care for the children that will be harmed.

If people don't want fluoride in their drinking water, their solution is as simple as going to Walmart and paying \$1 for a gallon of distilled water or buying a water distiller for a little over \$100.

Why are we even discussing this issue at the legislature. The decision to fluoridate public water supplies has always been made at the city and community level not the state. It should continue to be.

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