

**From:** Leuthner, Steven [sleuthne@mcw.edu]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:28 AM

**To:** Black, Tobie

**Subject:** Fluoride in Water

Dear Steering and Rules Committee,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and pediatrician about the proposal to eliminate fluoridation of the Milwaukee water supply. As a physician I am aware of a vast array of literature supporting this practice as an incredible public health achievement. Not only does it in the long run support children's dental health, but also adult and children's global health. There is more and more evidence of dental disease increasing risks of stroke and cardiovascular disease. So when the AAP argues it that "For every \$1 invested in water fluoridation, approximately \$38 is saved in future dental treatments.", I would suggest that is the minimum health care savings and it is probably hundreds if not thousands of dollars more in savings and quality of life.

I have just traveled to Guatemala on a medical mission trip with Timmy Global Health. I would claim that perhaps the biggest health risk to the children in that country is malnutrition and poor dentition. The Timmy Foundation and the WHO are now recommending fluoride washes for these children on these visits, hoping that even this small amount could help some. It is a clear demonstration how fluoridation of water sets our country apart as far as health. I would hate to see us move backwards toward a third world country health standards.

Finally, I speak as a concerned Foster parent of 2 Milwaukee city children at the age of 16 months and 4 ½ years of age. While my wife and I still do not know what will happen to these children, it is disheartening to think that should they return to the city of Milwaukee as children of a single, poor mother, that our city and council do not think of them and their dental, and subsequently global, health. I can provide them with what they need, but the poor cannot. I consider this to be an un-Christian abandonment move toward the poor children in Milwaukee County. Is this all for a Buck?

Please re-consider and agree to continue to spend the money on one of the best public health programs that our country has achieved. Stand up for the children, especially the poor children that have no voice.

Sincerely,

Steve Leuthner, Foster Father and Citizen

Steven R Leuthner, MD, MA  
Professor of Pediatric and Bioethics  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
phone: 414-266-6820  
pager: 414-907-3335

Steven R Leuthner, MD, MA  
Professor of Pediatric and Bioethics  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
phone: 414-266-6820

pager: 414-907-3335