

July 31, 2025

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
U.S. House of Representatives
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cleaver:

On behalf of the undersigned dental organizations, we express our strong support for H.R. 4556, the Protect Our Treatment for Enamel, Erosion, and Tooth Health (TEETH Act). This bill would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to commission an independent, rapid-response evidence review from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine before proposing updates to drinking water regulations that affect community water fluoridation.

Community water fluoridation is the controlled adjustment of naturally occurring fluoride levels in public water to the concentration recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service to prevent tooth decay (0.7 mg/L). For more than 80 years, this proven public health measure is safe, cost-effective, and extensively researched, reducing cavities in children and adults by approximately 25 percent. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recognized it as one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. Without this measure, dental care costs are projected to rise significantly over the next five years.

H.R. 4556 ensures that decisions regarding community water fluoridation are grounded in robust scientific evidence rather than individual, flawed, or mischaracterized studies. It is especially timely given EPA's July 18 announcement eliminating its Office of Research and Development, which is responsible for developing the scientific evidence that informs EPA's policy decisions.

We applaud your leadership in protecting this time-tested and highly successful public health practice. To facilitate further discussion, please contact Ms. Jennifer Fisher from the American Dental Association at 202-285-9296 or fisherj@ada.org.

Sincerely,

American Dental Association
Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Periodontology
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association of Endodontists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists

American Student Dental Association
Hispanic Dental Association
National Dental Association
Society of American Indian Dentists