September 24, 2015

Honorable Mike Simpson
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson:

On behalf of our 158,000 members, we are pleased to register our support for H. Res. 416. This resolution commemorates the 70th anniversary of community water fluoridation—one of ten great public health achievements of the 20th century.¹

In 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan became the world’s first city to adjust the level of fluoride in its community water supply to optimal levels. The decision was based on investigations and clinical observations dating back to the early 1900s, which correlated fluoride levels in water with reduced incidence of dental decay.

Fifteen years after adjusting the fluoride content of its public water supply to optimal levels, researchers found the children in Grand Rapids who drank fluoridated water from birth had 50 to 63 percent less tooth decay.² Subsequent studies affirmed the safety and effectiveness of the measure, and public health officials began urging other communities to embrace the practice.³-⁴

Today, nearly 75 percent of the U.S. population served by public water utilities—more than 210 million people—now receive the benefits of optimally fluoridated water.⁵ Studies show that community water fluoridation prevents at least 25 percent of tooth decay in children and adults, even with the widespread availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste.⁶-⁷

The preponderance of credible scientific evidence supports the continued safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation. The ADA is working with the public health community to expand the practice, and welcomes opportunities to work with you and your colleagues to do so.

We applaud you for commemorating the 70th anniversary of community water fluoridation with a resolution that acknowledges the practice as a safe, beneficial, and cost-effective public health measure for preventing tooth decay. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mary Dietrich at 202-789-5178 or dietrichm@ada.org.

Sincerely,

/s/ Maxine Feinberg, D.D.S.
President

/s/ Kathleen T. O’Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

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