

1 Resolution #18T (15)–2015 Annual Leadership Forum
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3 TITLE: Children should be Encouraged to Drink Fluoridated Tap Water
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5 SPONSORED BY: District IX
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7 DATE: August 9, 2014
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9 DISPOSITION:
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11 Whereas, children should drink fluoridated tap water to prevent dental caries;
12 and
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14 Whereas, children of immigrant families from countries with questionable
15 water sources may not allow their children to drink fluoridated tap
16 water in the US and
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18 Whereas, children of any economic status may have parents adverse to
19 having children drink fluoridated tap water, therefore be it
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21 RESOLVED, that the American Academy of Pediatrics promote to its members
22 the importance of encouraging:
23 (i) patients in their care to drink fluoridated tap water and
24 (ii) parents/caregivers to use fluoriated water for food and
25 formula preparation for their infants and children.
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27 FISCAL NOTE:
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29 REFER TO: 2015 Annual Leadership Forum
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36 BACKGROUND
37 INFORMATION: Background Information from the Author
38 According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
39 (CDC) website www.cdc.gov: For 65 years, community water
40 fluoridation has been a safe and healthy way to effectively prevent
41 tooth decay. CDC has recognized water fluoridation as one of 10
42 great public health achievements of the 20th century.
43
44 According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
45 website www.epa.gov: The US Department of Health and Human
46 Services (HHS) and the US Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) continue to ensure that standards and guidelines on fluoride in drinking water in order to provide the maximum protection to (15) –2015 Annual Leadership Forum

the American people to support good dental health, especially in children. HHS is proposing that the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water can be set at the lowest end of the current optimal range to prevent tooth decay, and EPA is initiating review of the maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water.

According to the Fluoride Action Network website www.FluorideAlert.org: As with other fresh water supplies (eg, spring water, lake water, river water), bottled waters have low levels of fluoride. Fresh surface water contains an average of just 0.05 ppm. To put this in perspective, artificially fluoridated water (using industrial-grade fluoride chemicals contains 0.7 to 1.2 ppm fluoride, which is 14 to 24 times more than the average natural level.

Since most bottled water is derived from fresh surface water sources, it is not surprising to find that levels in bottled water are generally very low. According to the USDA, the average level of fluoride in bottled water is **0.11 ppm** (USDA 2005). Less than 10% of bottled waters contain more than 0.3 ppm.