

The Association
of
STATE AND TERRITORIAL DENTAL DIRECTORS

This Resolution was unanimously approved at the Annual
Session in Charleston, South Carolina
March 23-26, 1980

TITLE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS
RELATING TO NATURALLY OCCURRING FLUORIDE.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has included fluoride in the primary standards of the National Interim Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The effect of these regulations is to label fluoride at levels of twice the optimum and above as a contaminant and a health hazard.

WHEREAS, it is recognized that tooth mottling may occur as a result of ingestion of higher concentrations of fluoride, this does not mean that the mottling itself poses a health hazard warranting mandatory imposition of burdensome and costly defluoridation procedures on affected communities. E.P.A.'s own estimate for defluoridation plant construction and operation for a system serving 1,000 people indicates that water utility bills to the consumer would more than double.

WHEREAS, since the U.S. Public Health Service provided information to E.P.A. which resulted in this classification of fluoride in the Primary Drinking Water Regulations, it is the position of this association that no Federal Agency should, by force of regulation, cause communities to defluoridate or discontinue use of their water supplies when such action may mean financial disaster for the town, or threaten their water supply since an alternative water source may not be available.

WHEREAS, the continued labeling of fluoride as a contaminant and health hazard will undoubtedly undermine the efforts of the dental profession to promote fluoridation of community water supplies where optimal levels of fluoride do not occur naturally.

WHEREAS, the American Dental Association is attempting to have E.P.A. reclassify fluoride under the Secondary Drinking Water Regulations and the ASTDD supports these efforts.

ACTION REQUESTED:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors requests that the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials contact both the Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service and the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency and convey this Association's position of disapproval regarding the present E.P.A. classification of fluoride and request that fluoride be changed from the Primary to the Secondary Drinking Water Regulations.