 **PROVIDENCE**
BAPTIST CHURCH
"Winning the Lost...Developing the Saved"

Dr. Gerald L. Durley
Pastor

March 9, 2011

Senator Chip Rogers
Senate Majority Leader
Georgia State Capitol – Room 236
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Repeal of Georgia's Mandatory Fluoridation Law

Dear Senator Rogers:

As a citizen, a minister, and a community leader, I am writing to state my opposition to the practice of water fluoridation, and to ask that the current Georgia law mandating water fluoridation throughout our state be repealed.

First and foremost, water fluoridation takes away people's choice. We have a God-given right to not have fluoride forced into our bodies or the bodies of our children. Fluoridation supporters attempt to say that people are not forced to drink fluoridated water, but that is a disingenuous statement that ignores reality. Many families do not have funds to buy an expensive home water fluoride removal system, or to buy unfluoridated bottled water for making their babies' milk formula, so in truth they are forced to drink fluoride in their water simply because of their economic status or household income.

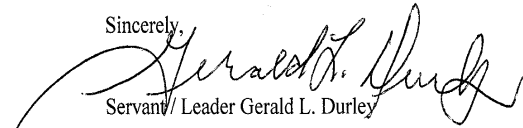
Second, fluoridation disproportionately harms members of the black community. The Centers for Disease Control's own information acknowledges that blacks have significantly more "dental fluorosis" teeth staining than whites. For many, the stains are not simply "barely visible" or "faint" in color, or "just a cosmetic issue" as fluoridation promoters call it. Common sense tells us that if fluorides affect the teeth, which are the hardest surfaces of the body to cause permanent staining, certainly other soft tissue organs in the body are affected. Also, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences has designated kidney patients, diabetics, seniors, and babies as "susceptible subpopulations" that are especially vulnerable to harm from ingested fluorides. Black citizens are disproportionately affected by kidney disease and diabetes, and are therefore more impacted by fluorides.

Third, we cannot control the dose of fluoride people ingest if we put fluoride in drinking water. Layered on top of this, we do not know what each person's medical history or nutritional status is. Therefore, the "one size fits all" approach to fluoridation makes no sense.

We need to focus on helping people get access to dentists. Lack of fluoride does not cause cavities. Too many sugars on the teeth, lack of access to dental care, and lack of dental health education—these cause cavities.

We also need to know why the full story about harm from fluorides is only just now coming out. I support the holding of Fluoridegate hearings at the state and national level so we can learn why we haven't been openly told that fluorides build up in the body over time, why our government agencies haven't told the black community openly that fluorides disproportionately harm black Americans, and why we've been told that decades of extensive research show fluoridation to be safe, when the National Research Council in 2006 listed volumes of basic research that has never been done. This is a serious issue for all Americans, of every race and in every location.

Sincerely,


Servant/Leader Gerald L. Durley

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