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VMS Resolution
Fluoridation in Community Water Systems
Adopted on February 2, 2006 by VMS Council

Whereas, in the 1930's, naturally occurring fluoride in community water systems was found to have a profound effect on the reduction of dental decay;

Whereas, frequent exposure to small amounts of fluoride enhances developing enamel and encourages remineralization, replacing minerals that bacteria dissolve from the enamel surface of teeth;

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ranks community water fluoridation as one of the top ten public health achievements of the 20th century;

Whereas, under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency regulates the fluoride level that protects the public from harm;

Whereas, objections raised to community water fluoridation over the years have included: fluorosis, toxic waste product, not approved by the FDA, lead poisoning, allergy, cancer, medication without permission, and minimal benefit;

Whereas, these claims have been met by an overwhelming weight of scientific evidence consistently vindicating the safety of fluoride when used at appropriate levels and dosages;

Whereas, in 1952, Burlington became the first city in Vermont to adopt water fluoridation as a public health policy to help prevent tooth decay among residents;

Whereas, in subsequent years, 44 additional Vermont communities added fluoride to their community water and today, approximately 56% of Vermonters on community water systems drink fluoridated water;

Whereas, community water fluoridation benefits everyone, especially those without access to regular dental care;

Whereas, studies conducted from 1976-1987 show reductions in dental decay in fluoridated communities by 30-60% for baby teeth; 20-40% for children ages 8-12; 15-35% for teens and adults, and our elderly are expected to have 50% fewer root surface lesions if they drink fluoridated water;

Whereas, the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont State Dental Society, and the Vermont Dental Hygiene Association all firmly endorse community water fluoridation for the health of Vermonters; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Vermont Medical Society endorses fluoridation as an important community commitment to the oral health of its children and adults and it affirms the value of continuing fluoridation in community water systems.