

ALPHA Resolution 2004-1

**RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR  
COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION TO IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, dental tooth decay is recognized as a chronic disease, and the most common chronic disease found in children (1); and

**WHEREAS**, fluoride is a naturally occurring element, and the fluoride content of community water supplies is the single most safe and effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and to improve oral health for a lifetime (2); and

**WHEREAS**, community water fluoridation is a public health measure that benefits individuals of all ages and socioeconomic groups, especially those without access to regular dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, the average yearly cost for a community to fluoridate its water is estimated at an average cost of \$0.50, with a range of \$0.12 - \$5.41 per person, depending mostly on the size of the community and labor costs (2); and

**WHEREAS**, the lifetime average cost per person represents less than one-third of the charge for one dental restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, fluoridation of community water supplies is supported by over 90 professional health organizations including the American Public Health Association (2); and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has named water fluoridation as one of the ten greatest public health achievements during the 20<sup>th</sup> century (3), ALPHA has been on record of supporting community water fluoridation in a post resolution, and 2005 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of water fluoridation in the United States;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alaska Public Health Association reaffirms the association's recognition of the public health benefits of community water fluoridation for preventing dental decay, and encourages Alaska communities to fluoridate water supplies to levels optimal to prevent tooth decay and promote optimal oral health. Further, be it resolved that the Alaska Public Health Association submit a letter defining the organization position on community water fluoridation to the Juneau Fluoridation Task Force that is meeting at this time and follow similar actions in any future community and/or legislative forums discussing the merits of water fluoridation in Alaska.

**Approved by the ALPHA Membership at the November 30, 2004 Annual meeting**

**REFERENCES:**

- (1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, October 2000.
- (2) American Dental Association, "Fluoridation Facts", 1999.
- (3) USDHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Achievements in Public Health, 1900-1999: Fluoridation of Drinking Water to Prevent Dental Caries", *MMWR*, 48(41), pp. 933-940, October 22, 1999