



The Colorado Health Foundation™

July 29, 2015

Denver Board of Water Commissioners

Re: Community Water Fluoridation

Dear Commissioners:

The Colorado Health Foundation supports Denver Water's current community water fluoridation policy. The Colorado Health Foundation is a nonprofit organization that engages through grantmaking, public policy, evaluation, private sector engagement and communications outreach. Our partners include nonprofits, health care leaders, policy makers, educators and the private sector. To achieve our vision, we focus on three community outcome areas – *Healthy Living*, *Health Coverage* and *Health Care* – to ensure a future state where our communities promote health and our health care systems deliver excellent, affordable care to Coloradans who both have and desire good health.

Dental disease is the most common childhood disease and is associated with diabetes, adverse pregnancy outcomes, heart disease and lost school and work hours. Fluoridated water decreases tooth decay by nearly 25 percent in children and adults, and it saves communities money by reducing costs and lost work hours associated with repairing tooth decay. For most cities, every \$1 invested in water fluoridation saves \$38 in unnecessary dental treatment costs.

As the Denver Board of Water Commissioners prepares for upcoming discussion on water fluoridation practices in the Denver metro area, the Colorado Health Foundation urges you to maintain your current policy that reflects sound research and best practices. Community water fluoridation policies effectively reduce the incidence of tooth decay and are an important tool for reducing oral health disparities. Denver has effectively applied this proven intervention, and we support the continuation of community water fluoridation to maintain important oral health benefits to Denver residents.

Should you have any questions about our position on this issue, please contact Dustin Moyer, policy officer at the Colorado Health Foundation, at [dmoyer@coloradohealth.org](mailto:dmoyer@coloradohealth.org) or 303.953.3600. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to Denver Water.

Sincerely,

Rahn Porter  
Interim President and CEO  
The Colorado Health Foundation