

Oklahoma State Board of Health Resolution:

**60th Anniversary of Community Water Fluoridation
and Oral Health in Oklahoma**

**Oklahoma State Board of Health
February 10, 2005**

WHEREAS, the fluoridation of drinking water has been proven safe and effective in reducing dental decay and is cited as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and

WHEREAS, state and national medical, dental, and public health organizations endorse and recommend optimally fluoridated drinking water for the prevention of tooth decay, and

WHEREAS, a recent oral health needs assessment of Oklahoma third grade children, jointly conducted by the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the University of Oklahoma Colleges of Dentistry and Public Health, found that (a) 69.4% of children have dental caries experience, (b) 40.2% of children have untreated dental decay, (c) only 37.2% of children have dental sealants, and (d) the average third grade child has approximately 2.8 teeth that are decayed or have been decayed, and

WHEREAS, community water fluoridation is one of the most cost-effective public health preventive measures available, and for every dollar spent on community water fluoridation, up to \$38.00 is saved in dental treatment costs, and

WHEREAS, community water fluoridation benefits both children and adults regardless of income level or access to care, and can result in up to a 40% reduction of dental caries, and

WHEREAS, 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of community water fluoridation in America, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma State Board of Health:

1. Recognizes 2005 as the 60th anniversary of community water fluoridation in America, and proclaims this event as a significant achievement in the history of public health and preventive dentistry,
2. Recommends that all public water systems in Oklahoma be optimally fluoridated to provide this cost-effective oral disease prevention measure to residents throughout Oklahoma,

3. Strongly urges that state and local government officials move in the direction of providing this health and cost saving benefit for their citizens if that is not already the case,

4. Suggests that Turning Point organizations consider this public health measure on their agenda,

5. Recommends that other effective oral health preventive programs of [a] dental education and tobacco use prevention, and [b] regular clinical dental care (including dental sealants and topical fluoride treatments) should also be emphasized and actively promoted, in addition to water fluoridation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma State Board of Health recommends and supports good oral health for all Oklahoma residents.