UW Health

October 27, 2014

Madison Water Utility Board
119 East Olin Avenue
Madison, WI 53713

Dear Board Members,

On behalf of UW Health, including UW Hospital and Clinics, the School of Medicine and Public Health, UW Medical Foundation, and American Family Children's Hospital, we are writing to express our support for community water fluoridation. Fluoridation of community water supplies has been proclaimed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. According to the best available scientific evidence fluoridation is safe, effective and economical in preventing tooth decay. Today, three in four Americans, or more than 204 million people, benefit from fluoridated water.

Fluoridation saves money. On an individual basis, the lifetime cost of fluoridation is less than the cost of one dental filling. For communities, every $1 invested in water fluoridation saves $38 in dental treatment costs.

Studies show that community water fluoridation prevents at least 25 percent of tooth decay in children and adults, even with the widespread use of fluoride-containing products such as toothpaste. Simply by drinking water, people can benefit from fluoridation's cavity protection – regardless of age, education, race or socio-economic status.

As health care providers, our first concern is maintaining the health of our citizens. Community water fluoridation is an important part of that mission.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Golden, M.D.
Dean, University of Wisconsin School Medicine and Public Health

Jeffrey Grossman, M.D.
CEO and President, University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation

Ronald T. Sliwinski, MBA, FACHE
CEO and President, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics

Jeff Poltawsky
Senior Vice President, American Family Children's Hospital

Ellen R. Wald, M.D.
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Faculty, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health