Statement from Anne Hvizdak, Public Health Dental Hygienist

Members of the Madison Water Utility Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to have this public forum. My name is Anne Hvizdak and I have been a dental hygienist for 32 years. I am a member of the Wisconsin Dental Hygienists' Association, the Wisconsin Public Health Association- Dental Hygiene Section, the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition and a volunteer with Special Olympics Special Smiles. I have practiced as a dental hygienist in private practice and public health settings and am a resident of Dane County. I want to speak in favor of community water fluoridation and why it is necessary to continue fluoridating Madison's public water supply.

From 2000-2009, I served as a dental health program coordinator for Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile school-based dental sealant programs and Head Start Fluoride Varnish programs serving 5 counties in the Central Wisconsin Area. I also served as a Department of Health Services Regional Oral Health Consultant that participated in a 3rd grade and Head Start *Make your Smile Count* surveillance surveys.

I routinely screened 1500 children annually using principles determined by the Association of State and Territorial Director's *Basic Screening Survey* that is used by all Seal-A-Smile programs. I also used principles recognized by the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry's *Caries Risk Assessment Tool* (CAT) to further asses a child's risk for dental caries, commonly known as dental cavities, based on a number of environmental, health and social factors.

The schools that I served were located in areas that included water treatment districts that fluoridated their water systems and rural districts that used private wells. In the areas that did not have access to community water fluoridation, I traditionally saw higher incidence of dental caries. The difference was especially notable in Portage County where there were 4 distinct school districts. In the Stevens Point Area school district, where a majority of students benefited from community water fluoridation, there were lower rates of dental caries vs. the students that resided in the Almond, Amherst and Rosholt School Districts that mainly relied on private wells.

While you will hear from others about the benefits of water fluoridation, I would like to highlight what parents will need to do to provide fluoride supplementation for their children if the City of Madison chooses to cease providing community water fluoridation. In the areas that I served without community water fluoridation, the burden to provide adequate daily fluoride supplements rested with the parents and became a barrier they had to overcome. According to the *Caries Risk Assessment Tool*, children that reside in areas that lack community water fluoridation have an environmental barrier that increases their risk of dental caries. The city of Madison would be adding an environmental barrier to some who already have a number of health and social barriers to adequate health and dental care. The City of Madison would be increasing the risk of dental caries for all of its children.