

Whereas, while tooth decay is preventable, it is also the most common chronic disease of childhood; and

Whereas, untreated tooth decay can lead to pain, tooth loss, poor nutrition, and difficulty, eating, sleeping and learning; and

Whereas, fluoride strengthens tooth enamel, making teeth more resistant to decay; and

Whereas, when fluoride is found naturally or added to the community water, at proper concentrations, tooth decay can be prevented; and

Whereas, nearly one-fifth of all health care spending for children is related to dental care; and

Whereas, every dollar spent on fluoridation can save up to \$38 in avoided dental bills; and

Whereas, there is strong evidence that water fluoridation is safe and effective; and

Whereas, the entire community benefits from community water fluoridation.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Polk County Board of Health Advisory Committee firmly supports and continues to encourage water fluoridation at concentrations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the most economical and effective means to control the major public health problem of dental caries.