Portland School Board endorses city fluoride measure

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Water fluoridation proponents Monday night got a big endorsement from the Portland School Board.

The board passed a resolution supporting Ballot Measure 26-151, in support of water fluoridation for the city of Portland.

“We support this effort because we know that the health of our students has a direct impact on their ability to learn,” said board member Member Bobbie Regan. “In Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties, 21 percent of children suffer from untreated dental decay. This often results in severe pain and infection and needlessly missed school days, impacting their education.”

Board member Matt Morton, who is also executive director of the Native American Youth and Family Center, added that fluoridation would particularly benefit Native American children, who tend to suffer greater rates of decay.

“As an equity issue, dental decay disproportionately impacts low-income families and children, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured,” he said. “Low-income children suffer twice the rate of untreated decay and nearly three times the rate of rampant decay than children from higher-income families.”

The bond measure, sponsored by the Healthy Kids, Healthy Portland campaign, will be on the ballot May 21 along with the opposing group, Clean Water Portland.
It is gratifying to see the Portland School Board casting their lot with the many thousands of North American scientists represented in the following list of national organizations who recognized the importance of community water fluoridation.

Acad Dentistry InterNatl.
Acad General Dentistry.
Acad for Sports Dentistry.
Alzheimer's Assoc.
America's Health Insurance Plans.
Am Acad Family Physicians.
Am Acad Nurse Practitioners.
Am Acad Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.
Am Acad Orthopaedic Surgeons.
Am Acad Pediatrics.
Am Acad Pediatric Dentistry.
Am Acad Periodontology.
Am Acad Physician Assistants.

As the volunteer Dental Director for the Creston Children's Dental Clinic, the only school-based dental clinic in Multnomah County, I applaud the strong endorsement by the PPS School Board in support of water fluoridation and our upcoming ballot measure: 26-151. Healthy kids learn better!
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