



Alaska State Legislature  
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Alaska State Capitol, Room 415  
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**Sponsor Statement ver A**  
**Fluoride Supplements-Public Water System**

"An Act relating to prescription fluoride supplements; relating to the practice of pharmacy; and relating to fluoride in public water systems."

In the 1930's researchers noted that certain parts of the US population did not have the same rates of dental issues as others. Their research led them to Colorado where they found that fluoride was naturally present in the drinking water. Because of this naturally occurring process, the people of Colorado had far fewer instances of cavities, tooth abscesses, and tooth decay than anyone else. These citizens had natural water fluoridation and were unknowingly benefiting from this ubiquitous mineral in their land.

This discovery led a researcher to discover that a small amount of fluoride in drinking water prevented tooth loss in children, erosion of tooth enamel in both children and adults, and better overall dental health for the population. With the rising costs of health care, better dental health cannot be overlooked. Over 80 years of research has given us a deeply robust wealth of data to lean on when discussing keeping this helpful and natural mineral in our water supply.

The data on harm possibly caused by fluoride in the water supply has only been available since 2010. The demonization of fluoride is based on very few studies, and these studies have been either unrepeatably or debunked by larger and better designed studies. When these negative studies are compared to the studies before and after them and viewed in light of the fact that nearly one third of the world's population is drinking fluoridated water, it is not surprising that there has been a 60% drop in cavities and tooth loss in children since the 1940s.

Keeping fluoride in our water supplies is a simple and highly cost-effective passive public health measure that saves not only our constituents money and discomfort, but the State as whole.