President Reaffirms Administration's Support of Fluoridation

President Carter reaffirmed his support of fluoridation in a telegram sent to the American Dental Association on October 20. The full text of the message follows:

"On the occasion of your one hundred and nineteenth annual session, I extend warm greetings to the officers and members of the American Dental Association.

"You demonstrate the dental profession's interest and commitment to our mutual goal of improving the health of the American people by assuring that the benefits of dental care and preventive medicine are made readily available to all.

"Your concern for children's dental health and your continuing and intensified efforts to encourage the adoption of fluoridation of community water supplies are commendable. I reaffirm my endorsement of fluoridation as the most effective public health measure to improve the nation's dental health and to reduce unnecessary related expenditures. You can be assured that my Administration will continue its efforts to control and eradicate disease on this and every front.

"I wish you success as you share knowledge and experience in this continuing pursuit of quality public service."

Signed/Jimmy Carter

Dental Disease Prevention Activity
Bureau of State Services
Surgeon General reaffirms fluoridation support

The Surgeon General in a statement released Sunday, called upon health officials and "concerned citizens" in fluoride-deficient communities "to act now to see that this deficit is corrected and to ensure the benefits of fluoridation for their community." He also embraced fluoridation as "the single most important step a community can take to improve dental health."

Dr. Julius B. Richmond, who is also HEW Assistant Secretary of Health, said in a statement announced by ADA President Frank P. Bowyer at the opening meeting of the House of Delegates: "Fluoridation of a community's water supply is an excellent example of a disease prevention effort that can improve the health status of our nation's citizens and reduce health care costs for children.

"Fluoridation is the most effective, least costly public health measure for preventing tooth decay—one of the most prevalent health problems," he pointed out, "yet only three of every five persons who could be provided the benefits of fluoridation now receive them."

Emphasizing that more than 30 years of research and community experience have demonstrated the safety and effectiveness of fluoridation, he added: "Lifetime benefits can be derived from drinking fluoridated water, and the cost of children's dental care can be cut in half."