

**House Committee on Health and Human Services
Testimony on HB 2372
An Act concerning certain municipalities; relating to disclosures regarding fluoride in water
supplies**

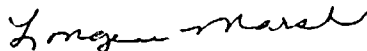
Chairman Crum and Members of the Committee:

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment is opposed to HB 2372. The practice of community water fluoridation began in 1945 and has been named one of the top 10 Public Health Achievements of the 20th century. This practice, which is well-known, well-tested and well-respected among scientists and public health practitioners, is a safe and proven way to prevent tooth decay.

HB 2372 is based on studies that have been discredited and the requirement for municipalities to make a disclosure based on these studies may cause unnecessary public alarm and is clearly state interference in a local issue. The safety and effectiveness of water fluoridation have been frequently evaluated with no credible evidence found to support an association between fluoridation and low intelligence.

Any state legislation which would discourage community water fluoridation which now is available to 63.6% of Kansas residents would be a step backward and a disservice to Kansas citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of the opposition of Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.



Lougene Marsh, MPA
Director