

American Medical Association

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January 30, 1958

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

Your letter of January 14 to Dr. Blasingame concerning fluoridation has been referred to this department for reply.

For your information I am enclosing a pamphlet entitled, "Statement on Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association." You will note that this statement in the Preface relates that the Council on Foods and Nutrition and the Council on Drugs of the American Medical Association made a study of this subject and that their report was adopted by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association. The adoption of this report was by a voice vote. No record was made on the number of physicians in favor nor of the number opposed.

It is not true that the AMA guarantees the safety of fluoridated water and assumes the responsibility of any possible damages to persons. It is not true that the AMA will thoroughly and at its own expense investigate complaints by individuals who believe they are suffering from artificially fluoridated water.

Sincerely yours,

C. Joseph Stetler
C. Joseph Stetler

L. A. ALESEN, M. D.
SURGEON
124 SOUTH LAS PALMAS AVENUE
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February 1, 1958

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Responding to your letter of January 10 concerning the report of the New York Times that the action of the American Medical Association House of Delegates on the fluoridation issue was unanimous, I can assure you that such was by no means the case. While the action was taken viva voce, it is my opinion that at least one-third of the delegates present voted against it.

In my opinion, the question of the safety of fluoridation has not as yet been at all satisfactorily answered. There are increasingly frequent reports appearing in the medical literature throughout the world of chronic fluoride poisoning due to the consumption of water containing fluoride of approximately the recommended concentration of one part per million. This is an excellent example of the steamroller tactics of the Public Health Service employees spending your money and mine in an attempt to obtain a precedent for machine medication for the masses. Once this precedent is obtained and generally recognized, there is almost no limit to the possibilities of the introduction of all manner of drugs in the water supply - tranquilizers, vitamins, and radio-active isotopes being among those which could be so used.

The real issue is the right of the individual to determine what shall be done to and with his body, dead or alive, as long as in the exercise of that right he does not impinge upon the equal rights of his fellows.

Yours sincerely,

L. A. Alesen, M. D.

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Dr. Alesen is a former member of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Ass'n.; past President of the California Medical Society.