

Medical College Head Joins Pro-Fluoridation Statement

Declaration Hails Legislature's Approval Of 'Important Step' In Public Health

The president of the Medical College of Ohio has joined the deans of the state's three other medical schools and two dental schools in a statement hailing legislative approval of statewide water fluoridation as "one of the most important steps taken for the betterment of public health in our time."

Dr. Glidden Brooks joined the deans of medical schools at Ohio State and Case Western Reserve universities and the University of Cincinnati, and of dental schools at Ohio State and Case Western Reserve, in a statement which called fluoridation the best way known to control tooth decay.

The Ohio Senate and House agreed Wednesday to a measure requiring all water systems serving at least 20,000 persons to fluoridate by Jan. 1, 1971, and all systems serving between 5,000 and 20,000 persons to fluoridate by Jan. 1, 1972. Governor Rhodes is expected to sign the bill.

The bill includes a local option provision, by which fluoridation opponents in any community whose water system is not already fluoridated can obtain signatures of 10 per cent of the voters to bring the issue to a referendum. Fluoridation can either be upheld or rejected in such a vote.

Toledo's water system already is fluoridated.

The joint statement by the medical and dental school heads said that "through long experience and exhaustive scientific, medical, and dental research, water fluoridation is, in our opinion, completely safe for people of all ages."

There is no evidence in all of the acceptable research, the statement went on, that fluoride in the amounts used in community water fluoridation is harmful to either well or ill persons of

any age. It is, rather, the statement said, "the best known means we have today to prevent dental caries in developing teeth."

The statement also said that the measure approved by the General Assembly is "medically safe in every respect."

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