

NAACP

COLORADO | MONTANA | WYOMING
STATE CONFERENCE



Resolution

Support for A National NAACP Oral Health Improvement Program and Advocacy for Community Water Fluoridation

Adopted By Unanimous Approval of the Membership
State Convention 2015 – Metro State University, Denver, Colorado
October 17, 2015

WHEREAS, African-Americans and other People of Color and People in economically challenged communities statistically receive poorer and less frequent dental care than people in communities with higher incomes and fewer People of Color – even when they have dental health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, oral health means much more than “healthy teeth and gums,” but also means being free of chronic oral-facial pain conditions, oral and pharyngeal (throat) cancers, oral soft tissue lesions, birth defects such as cleft lip and palate, and scores of other diseases and disorders that affect oral, dental, and craniofacial tissues; and

WHEREAS, in this time that greater attention is being paid to health and water issues and there exists awareness of wide opportunity to establish partnerships between public, private, nonprofit and other organizations, including civil rights organizations like the NAACP; and **WHEREAS** this kind of strategic partnership building and oral health/fluoridation conversation must include individual patients, the public, including people of color and traditionally excluded communities, along with all health care disciplines and health organizations; and

WHEREAS, school children in low-income communities have more tooth decay than children in other communities, and **WHEREAS** poor oral health is not only a barrier to school success but to social, professional, and career success; and

WHEREAS, oral cavity infection is a risk factor for systemic diseases including diabetes and heart disease which disproportionately affect African-Americans and **WHEREAS** African-Americans are also disproportionately targeted by the soft drink industry and media with sweetened, caloric

beverages and **WHEREAS** such beverages in highly sugared, carbonated, energy and other suspect drinks are a primary source of cavities; and

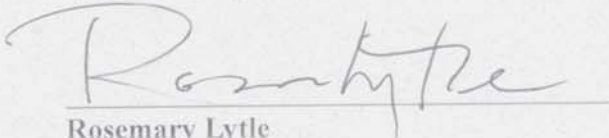
WHEREAS, fluoridated water can reduce the incidence of cavities by 25 percent, and

WHEREAS, dental diseases are preventable and with outreach, education, media, training and with other methods NAACP Units and communities can become beacons for greater oral health and community water fluoridation messages that will impact African-Americans, people in economically disadvantaged communities and People of Color more generally through a NAACP NAACP Oral Health Improvement Program and accompanying Advocacy for Community Water Fluoridation;

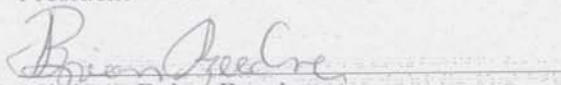
Now be it Resolved that the NAACP implement an Oral Health Improvement Program, and widely share our support for water fluoridation in community water systems

And Be It Finally Resolved that all NAACP Units – Youth, College, Prison, Young Adult & Adult Units – across the country and abroad partner with appropriate organizations including state Oral Health organizations and accompanying regional and national organizations and entities who are natural allies in this effort, so that oral health becomes a part of our wider Health and Wellness Strategic Game Changer Initiative and so that oral health becomes a reality for African-Americans and all People of Color throughout our states and in the world.

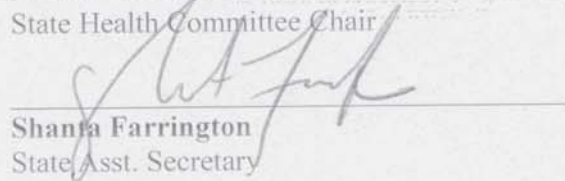
Approved this day October 17, 2015



Rosemary Lytle
President



Minister Brian Beecher
State Health Committee Chair



Shantia Farrington
State Asst. Secretary