

**Valley Family
Medicine Residency**

UW Medicine

VALLEY
MEDICAL CENTER

November 15, 2012

Renton City Council
1055 S. Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Renton City Councilmembers,

We are writing to express our support for community water fluoridation. It is an important public health measure that benefits everyone who drinks the water provided by the City of Renton.

More than 60 years of scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that water fluoridation is safe and effective. Today, nearly two-thirds of Americans, including the people of Renton, receive the proven health benefits of water fluoridation every day. Because it is available through the City's water system, community water fluoridation reduces the disparities in the rate of tooth decay that exist by income, race and ethnicity.

Dental disease affects people of all ages. It interferes with a child's ability to eat, sleep and perform well in school. It can limit employment opportunities for adults. And for seniors, dental disease can result in poor nutrition and health complications. Dental disease can negatively impact overall health and too often, people end up seeking treatment for dental disease in hospital emergency rooms.

The good news is that dental disease is preventable. Community water fluoridation is a proven, low-cost tool for preventing this disease across the entire population. Medical and health experts agree that community water fluoridation is beneficial and helps to promote good oral health.

We urge you to protect the oral health and overall health of the residents of Renton by continuing to support water fluoridation.

From the physicians of the Valley Family Medicine Clinic:

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