

The Morning Paper

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Letter

To the editor:

This paper has done a very credible job of explaining both sides of the water fluoridation issue in Louisiana, and we do not intend to play ping-pong via the Letters to the Editor section in debating the issue. We do, however, feel compelled to provide your readers with expert opinions to help correct some misinformation that appeared in a recent letter opposing water fluoridation.

As local dentists, we know firsthand the benefits of fluoride and, in particular, water fluoridation. In fact, one would be hard-pressed to find any local health-care professional, much less a dental professional, who does not wholeheartedly endorse the concept of water fluoridation.

Most of the opponents of this cost-effective health initiative

come from out of our state, many from out of the country. They often cite poorly documented, inaccurate, often fictitious studies promoted by

FAN, a group that is not recognized by any scientific or professional accreditation. This group and its few supporters often use this misinformation to incite fear in those most likely to benefit from water fluoridation--a program that the Center for Disease Control says is "one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century."

We certainly do not expect to be the definitive source of information on this subject, but we do think there are such resources out there. We suggest your readers check out websites such as www.LDA.org; www.ADA.org; www.HealthySmilesLouisiana.org; and www.cdc.gov, for real, credible facts on water fluoridation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present a professional's view of this important issue.

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