



August 31, 2026

JOINT CORRESPONDENCE:

Dr. Mehmet Oz, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd Baltimore MD 21244

Kevin Longino, CEO, and Dr. Joseph Vassalotti, Medical Officer, National Kidney Foundation
30 East 33rd Street, New York NY 10016

RE: Civil rights, Fluoridegate, and harm from fluoridated water to kidney patients

Dear Sirs:

Since 2011 when I composed a letter documenting my opposition to the practice of water fluoridation, much additional information has come out about mechanisms for harm from ingested fluorides. My father and brother were dentists, and I had previously supported the idea of fluoridation, but as I learned that fluorides don't just affect teeth in the mouth, but also numerous organs outside-the-mouth, I felt it only right to speak out. One of the causes described in our mission statement is to help heal the sick.

I shared in my letter that harm from fluorides was a civil rights and fairness issue. And I mentioned that the National Research Council has described kidney patients, diabetics, and seniors as "susceptible subpopulations" that are especially vulnerable to fluoride harm. Other civil rights leaders also spoke out about the risks and called for Fluoridegate to be investigated.

The ever-growing number of people with kidney disease in our country was 1 in 9 adults previously, but has now swelled to 1 in 7. And kidney disease costs Medicare vast amounts of its annual budget each year. Black Americans are around 13% of the population, but comprise more than 35% of those on dialysis machines. Latinos are also disproportionately harmed by kidney disease.

So why am I writing this letter? I've learned that as our bodies work hard to eliminate fluorides, the fluorides concentrate and pool in the kidneys prior to urination. This is not a pleasant picture to contemplate! This certainly can only worsen kidney function, not improve it! I do not support the idea of continuing to add fluorides to water, when no one can control the dose people receive, including the susceptible groups of kidney patients, diabetics, and seniors – and those who meet all three of these criteria: seniors who are kidney patients and diabetics!

COMMUNICATING POSSIBILITIES
DEVELOPING LEADERS

I have learned that fluorides are filtered out of water used in dialysis machines, because people have died from fluoride poisoning if the fluoride is not filtered out from the water. But how are my friends on dialysis to filter out fluorides from their home water that they drink when they come home from dialysis sessions? What if they don't know about the risks? What if they don't have funds to buy a filtration system? And we live in the hot South, where people drink even more water with the high heat and humidity here.

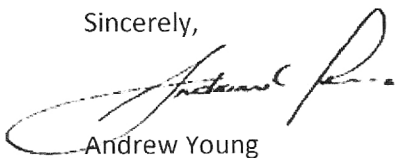
People are finding out about this issue. They're even asking why so many pets drinking fluoridated water die from kidney disease! What if conservatively only 10% of Americans' kidney disease was prevented or lessened by people no longer being forced to drink fluoridated water? Isn't their increased quality of life of value? What about the savings to taxpayers if even a small percentage of people avoid kidney disease, dialysis, or transplant? Dialysis, kidney stones, transplants, etc are very costly. Isn't that also worthy of consideration?

It seems very apparent that people should be warned, very publicly, if they are in one of the especially susceptible groups. And I suspect that many who are economically disadvantaged would very strongly wish their water to arrive at their home unfluoridated. This is only fair, that the poor should not pay the price of worsened health and additional costs. Clearly, fluoridated water hasn't stopped the cavity epidemic. Let's find ways to increase access to dental care, rather than harm millions of Americans' kidneys, brains, bones and thyroid glands because we were unwilling to be honest and admit that water fluoridation must go away.

The Fluoridegate scandal is all about the fact that groups keep trying to not call water fluoridation what it is: an old, harmful idea whose time to end has come. People need to actively speak out, not wait for "somebody else" to do it. So I'm speaking out. I encourage others to do so, on social media, in the regular press, in conversations with family members, in water utility board meetings and in discussions with government officials.

I hope that each of your organizations will openly and publicly, today – not in the future – oppose water fluoridation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Young", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the left side.

Andrew Young