COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee on Aviation Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

> FLORIDA PORTS CAUCUS FOUNDER AND CHAIR



FREDERICA S. WILSON Congress of the United States 24th District, Florida

April 11, 2025

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

CAUCUS ON THE U.S. COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS FOUNDER AND CHAIR

Honorable Mayor Michael Joseph North Miami Beach City Hall 17011 NE 19th Avenue North Miami Beach, Florida, 33162

Dear Mayor Joseph:

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding your concerns about the ongoing debate surrounding the fluoridation of drinking water and its impact on children and our community as a whole. I share your concerns, and I have been—and continue to be—very vocal about the risks and potential harm that could result from removing fluoride from our water supply.

It is truly unfortunate, and even difficult to believe, that after so many years of documented success demonstrating the positive impact of fluoridation—including dramatic improvements in dental health and the prevention of childhood cavities—this issue has become politicized. Decades of scientific research have consistently shown that fluoridation is one of the most effective and affordable public health measures. It not only protects oral health by strengthening teeth and preventing decay, but also significantly reduces other costs associated with poor dental health, such as the need for dentures, surgeries, hospitalizations, missed school and workdays, and even the emotional toll of low self-esteem.

Together, we represent some of the largest minority communities—many of whom are either unserved or underserved and lack access to convenient, affordable health and dental care. Many individuals in these communities are not adequately informed about proper oral hygiene practices and lack access to the foods, toothpaste, and mouthwash that support good oral health. Opportunities to expand education and awareness around oral health, along with increased access to community dental services, deserve our highest level of continued support.

We are fortunate to have the support of our Miami-Dade County Mayor, Daniella Levine Cava, on this important issue.

The Mayor recently convened a panel of dental and medical experts who refuted claims that our water is unsafe due to fluoridation. They strongly support the continued use of fluoridation as a means of improving dental health. For the good of our entire community—especially those we serve—we, too, must stand up and make our voices heard in support of fluoridation.

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE 2080 RAYBURN HOB WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 (202) 225–4506 (202) 226–0777 (FAX) MIAMI BEACH SATELLITE OFFICE MIAMI BEACH CITY HALL 1700 CONVENTION CTR. DR. FIRST FLOOR SUITE MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139 (305) 690–5905 MIAMI GARDENS OFFICE 18425 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite 355 MIAMI GARDENS, FL 33169 (305) 690–5905 (305) 690–5951 (FAX) NORTH MIAMI SATELLITE OFFICE SCOTT GALVIN COMMUNITY CENTER 1600 NE 126 STREET NORTH MIAMI, FL 33181 (305) 690-5905 WEST PARK SATELLITE OFFICE WEST PARK CITY HALL 1965 SOUTH STATE ROAD 7 WEST PARK, FL 33023 (954) 989–2688 Sincerely,

Frederica & Wilson

Frederica S. Wilson Member of Congress

CC: North Miami Beach City Commission