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'Old enemy' fluoride raising head

Editor:

While we all slept, an old enemy has raised its ugly head. The fluoride issue has returned to our beloved state of Louisiana.

Twice we have fought having this potentially dangerous substance from being added to our water supply. Now it has returned very quietly and almost escaped notice while this mandatory fluoridation bill has already passed through the Louisiana Senate without a single "no" vote in the Louisiana House and Welfare Committee; and now it is on its way to a full House vote.

As a retired Medical Technologist, I cannot imagine

why our elected officials would vote for adding fluoride to most of the public and community water supply of Louisiana. If our officials would only read of the many harmful effects of adding fluoride to our water, Louisiana would be a much safer place to live.

Ingested fluoride poses serious risks to infants, diabetics, kidney patients, and heart and cancer patients, just to mention a few. The American Dental Association and the Centers for Disease Control advise against mixing baby formula with fluoridated water. Ignoring scientific evidence of harm, the Louisiana State Senate passed a fluoridation man-

date bill which, if approved by the House, will require chemical fluoride to be added to most of Louisiana's public water supplies. Paul Connett, Ph.D., executive Director, Fluoride Action Network, has said that fluoridation proponents had paid to public relations and lobbying firms to promote fluoridation. The Scientific Council of International Society of Research on Nutrition and Vital Substances recommended that all governments refrain from fluoridating drinking water. Reasons for denouncing fluoridation: "long-term hazards which are irreversible in the human body."

Do we need more chemicals in our already questionable water supply? I say "No".

Dr. Paul Connett, Executive Director of Fluoride Action Network, urges you to contact your state representative and ask them to stop the money-wasting fluoridation mandate. (For Ouachita Parish residents, your representatives are Jim Fannin, Frank Hoffmann, Rosalind Jones, Kay Katz and Sam Little at 225-342-6945). Call your local representatives and say, "Please vote no to the fluoride mandate bill No. SB-312."

**Norma Peacock
Monroe**