



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Philadelphia – First City in Nation – to pass a Law Requiring  
“Informed Consent”  
Before Dentists Place Mercury Amalgam Fillings**

MAY 7, 2008, PHILADELPHIA - The Pennsylvania *Coalition* for Mercury-Free Dentistry and *Consumers* for Dental Choice will host a press conference to promote Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown’s “Informed Consent” mercury dental law. **Tuesday, May 13, 12:30 p.m. Mayor’s Reception Room 202, City Hall.**

Consumers and dentists will **PROTEST** the President of the Pennsylvania Dental Association’s deceptive statement “**No dentist ‘places mercury’ in a patient’s mouth.**”: **10:30 a.m., 255 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street.**

After a four-year battle, Philadelphia City Council passed Brown’s bill mandating that dentists distribute a patient brochure disclosing the dangers of silver/amalgam fillings, that they are 50% mercury, that dental mercury exposure may pose harrowing effects on human health and the environment, and that non-mercury alternatives exist. Despite aggressive opposition by the PDA, ADA and Philadelphia Dental Society, the bill was passed unanimously, 17-0 on December 13, 2007. A similar bill has been introduced on the state level by PA Representative Daylin Leach.

“Unless patients receive truthful information about the **DISADVANTAGES** of amalgam, patients cannot make educated decisions about dental care and cannot protect themselves from mercury exposure.” says, Freya Koss, Director of the *Coalition*. A 2006 Zogby poll indicates that nearly half of Americans are unaware that mercury is the primary metal in amalgam, and more than 90 percent think dentists should be required to inform patients of alternatives. A large body of evidence has called into question the safety of the constant exposure to mercury-based metals, not only for patients but also for dentists, their technicians, and their staff. *More* dentists and their patients are weighing the risks and benefits and saying no to amalgam.

Koss, who became seriously ill following placement of an amalgam filling in 1998, is hopeful that the Philadelphia Department of Public Health will write a scientifically factual brochure heeding conclusions of the World Health Organization that dental amalgam fillings contribute more mercury to a person's body than all other sources of mercury combined. Published research demonstrates that mercury is a powerful neurotoxic poison, constantly leaching from amalgams and readily inhaled and absorbed into the bloodstream. Donald Robbins, DMD, a biologic Exton dentist and member of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, a professional association whose mission it is to examine and compile scientific research relating to the biocompatibility of oral/dental materials, encourages warnings for pregnant women: "Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that mercury in the tissues of the fetus or infant correlates significantly with the number of dental amalgam fillings in the mother."

Coincidentally, the Food and Drug Administration, on April 28, 2008, reopened for public comment the 2002 proposed Rule for Classification of pre-encapsulated dental amalgam. Mandated to classify dental amalgam in 1976, the FDA has skirted this issue and permitted a pre civil war device to continue to be used without evidence of safety. The issuance of special controls for dental amalgam is being considered, perhaps warnings for pregnant women and children. Several consumer groups have sued FDA over this issue.

"All populations should be aware of the potential health hazards of amalgam. The brochure provided for in Bill No 040904 will give all patients pertinent information to make informed choices." stated Reynolds Brown.

"The consumer protection law written by Blondell Reynolds Brown will help thousands of Philadelphia families to bring awareness that silver fillings are mainly mercury and pose a serious health risk. What pregnant woman or parent would want their unborn baby or child exposed to mercury?" warns Charlie Brown, National Counsel to Consumers for Dental Choice.

For more information about the bill and the press conference, contact Freya Koss: (610) 649-2606, Charlie Brown (202) 544-6333, [charlie@toxicteeth.org](mailto:charlie@toxicteeth.org) .

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