

Consumers, please voice your support for our boycott. Sign onto this letter by emailing sylvia@toxicteeth.org and providing 1) your name & 2) your town & state -- for our international friends, city & country.

Consumers for Dental Choice

316 F St., N.E., Suite 210
Washington DC 20002
Phone 202.544-6333; fax 202.544-6331

www.toxicteeth.org

Working for Mercury-Free Dentistry

Stanley M. Bergman
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Henry Schein, Inc.
135 Duryea Road
Melville, NY 11747

Re: Boycott to end amalgam

Dear Mr. Bergman:

We consumers support the health professionals boycotting Henry Schein, and we will encourage others to join them until Schein stops selling mercury amalgam.

Mercury amalgam is a primitive 19th century device with no role in modern dentistry. Being 50% mercury, it is a workplace hazard, a health risk, and an environmental menace. In dental offices and clinics, amalgam is a source of unnecessary mercury exposure for dental workers, who have lower fecundity rates and more birth failures according to surveys. As a known neurotoxin, the mercury in amalgam puts the developing neurological systems of the unborn and young children at particular risk. While technology can catch some of the mercury spilled in dental offices, most of it walks out of the office and later into the environment – as a result, amalgam is (1) the largest source of mercury in reservoir (more mercury resides in Americans' mouths than in all products combined); (2) the largest source, by far, of mercury in wastewater; and (3) a growing source of air pollution due to the increased use of cremation. Since amalgam is interchangeable with other filling materials, there is no reason to continue endangering the public and harming the environment with unnecessary dental mercury. As the largest seller of this dangerous product, Schein has a responsibility to stop distributing amalgam.

Additionally, we are troubled by Schein's pivotal role in the revolving door that led to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recent amalgam rule – a rule that even FDA employees say is “more responsive to industry than human health.” Margaret Hamburg came through the revolving door from Schein straight to the FDA Office of the Commissioner, continuing to hold onto her Schein stock options while also holding a policy meeting to discuss dental amalgam. The benefits reaped by industry are undeniable: Once news of the rule hit the press, Schein's stock value jumped and your general counsel even thanked Commissioner Hamburg for her work at FDA: “We are indebted to you for your service to our country.” Then the day the rule was published – and months after Hamburg left the Schein board – you boasted to analysts about the Commissioner's “insight” to the Schein board “throughout the years.” We are determined that Schein should not benefit from its revolving door relationship with the FDA Commissioner.

Therefore, we will endorse the boycott of Schein products until your company ends amalgam sales. Your press office indicates that Schein's amalgam sales are minimal and Wall Street says that eliminating this dangerous product would be to your benefit. Since your company's interest in amalgam is so insignificant, we anticipate that you will have no trouble ceasing its distribution in a timely manner so as to end this boycott.

Sincerely,