

Press advisory, March 13-14, 2003

Re: "Protect the Children" news conference to be held March 19, 11 am, at the Capitol  
From: Coalition to Abolish Mercury Dental Fillings (Washington DC)

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A broad coalition of physicians, academicians, dentists, and environmental, children's, and minority organizations is asking the Arizona Legislature to pass a bill to ban mercury fillings for children. (House Bill #2467)

The organization is holding a "Protect the Children" news conference at the Capitol on Wed., March 19, 2003, at 11:00 a.m. (on plaza between House bldg. & Capitol bldg). The group supports a bill by Representatives Karen Johnson (R-Mesa) and Pete Hershberger (R-Tucson) to stop dentists from placing mercury ("silver") fillings in children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers. The bill is posed for a floor vote.

"Mercury is just about the most toxic non-radioactive element on the planet," said Carolyn Dohrenwend of Chandler, a spokeswoman for the Coalition to Abolish Mercury Dental Fillings. "It's time we put the children of Arizona ahead of the special interests."

"So-called 'silver' fillings are mainly mercury," says Dr. Terry Lee, a dentist from Mesa and a spokesman for the Holistic Dental Association. "*The fillings are toxic when going into the mouth, and toxic when going out.* We therefore call on our fellow dentists to stop placing this material in the children of Arizona."

"The term 'silver' is false and deceptive," says Charles G. Brown of Washington, counsel for the Coalition. "*It's time for the ADA to open wide and say the 'M' word.*"

The national NAACP passed a resolution endorsing abolishing mercury dental fillings. The Arizona-based Children for a Safe Environment also endorses the bill.

Although many dentists support the bill, the American Dental Association supports mercury fillings. The coalition criticizes the ADA's financial ties to mercury manufacturers in its "seal of acceptance" program, its (expired) patents, and its mercury "gag rule."

PLEASE NOTE: In most BUT NOT ALL instances, the page and line numbering of bills on this web site correspond to the page and line numbering of the official printed version of the bills.

REFERENCE TITLE: mercury amalgam fillings  
State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2003

## HB 2467

Introduced by  
Representatives Johnson, Hershberger: Chase, Gray C, Jayne, Nichols,  
Pearce, Senators Brown, Verschoor

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 32, CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES,  
BY ADDING

SECTION 32-1270; RELATING TO THE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS.  
(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1

HB 2467

- 1 -

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: 1  
Section 1. Title 32, chapter 11, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes, 2  
is amended by adding section 32-1270, to read: 3

32-1270. Mercury amalgam fillings; prohibited use; warning 4

A. A DENTIST SHALL NOT PLACE A MERCURY AMALGAM FILLING IN: 5

1. A CHILD UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE. 6

2. A NURSING MOTHER. 7

3. A PREGNANT WOMAN OF ANY AGE. 8

B. A DENTIST SHALL NOT USE MERCURY OR MERCURY AMALGAM IN A DENTAL  
9

PROCEDURE UNLESS BEFORE ITS USE THE DENTIST INFORMS THE PATIENT IN  
A MANNER 10

THAT, IN THE DENTIST'S PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT, WILL BE UNDERSTOOD  
BY THE 11

PATIENT OF THE FOLLOWING: 12

1. THE INTENDED USE OF MERCURY OR MERCURY AMALGAM. 13

2. THE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE USE OF THE 14  
MERCURY OR MERCURY AMALGAM THAT RELATE TO HEALTH AND HUMAN  
BIOLOGICAL OR 15

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. 16

3. OPTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE DENTAL PROCEDURE USING MATERIALS  
OTHER 17

THAN MERCURY OR MERCURY AMALGAM. 18

C. PURSUANT TO RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD, A DENTIST MUST POST IN A  
19

PUBLIC AREA OF THE DENTAL OFFICE A WARNING ABOUT THE DANGERS OF  
EXPOSURE TO 20

MERCURY POSED BY MERCURY AMALGAM FILLINGS. 21

For Posting At California Dental Offices, Effective March 9, 2003

# NOTICE TO PATIENTS

**PROPOSITION 65 WARNING: Dental Amalgam, used in many dental fillings, causes exposure to mercury, a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.**

**Root Canal treatments and restorations, including fillings, crowns and bridges, use chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer.**

**The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has studied the situation and approved for use all dental restorative materials.**

**Consult your dentist to determine which materials are appropriate for your treatment.**