

GOOD MORNING MR. CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS,

MY NAME IS ANITA VAZQUEZ TIBAU...I HAVE ALWAYS TESTIFIED BEFORE STATE, FEDERAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES WITHOUT WRITTEN TESTESTIMONY...THIS IS A VERY DIFFERENT CHALLENGE FOR ME. I AM HERE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF HONORARY PETITIONER DEBBIE SELTENRIECH, DEBBIE ASKED US TO FILE THIS PETITION, BUT DEBBIE COULD NOT BE WITH US TODAY... YOU SEE DEBBIE SELTENRIECH COMMITTED SUISIDE. DEBBIE SELTINREICH WAS A DENTAL ASSISTANT...

WE MEET IN 2001, JOINED TOGETHER BY OUR MUTUAL DESIRE TO EXPOSE THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MOST TOXIC NON-RADIO ACTIVE MATERIAL KNOWN TO MAN... MERCURY...AT THAT TIME DEBBIE TOLD ME THAT SHE HAD SPENT THE LAST 10 YEARS OF HER LIFE BED RIDDEN, COMPLETELY UNABLE TO CARE FOR HERSELF. SHE RELIED ON HER HUSBAND FOR ALL OF HER BASIC NEEDS. SHE TOLD ME SHE HAD BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH MULTIPLE SCLOROSIS.

SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE HAD BEEN A DENTAL ASSISTANT FOR YEARS AND THAT SHE WAS HANDLEING MERCURY IN HER BARE HANDS WITH OUT ANY PROTECTION. SHE WAS NEVER TOLD THAT HER EXPOSURE TO MERCURY WAS DESTROYING HER HEALTH. SHE TOLD ME AFTER YEARS OF GOING TO THE DOCTORS, LOOKING FOR ANSWERS; THE RESULTS OF HER CONDITION RESULTED IN COMPLETE FINANCIAL DEVESTATION FOR HER AND HER HUSBAND. SHE FINALLY FOUND OUT SHE WAS MERCURY POISONED. IN FACT, WHEN WE MEET IT WAS LITTERLY ONE OF THE FIRST TIMES THAT SHE HAD BEEN OUT OF HER HOME IN 10 YEARS.

SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE WANTED TO SHARE HER STORY WITH EVERYONE IN THE DENTAL PROFFESION, SO THAT OTHERS WOULD BE SPARED THE HORRIFIC EFFECTS OF MERCURY POISONING THAT SHE SUFFERED FOR SO MANY YEARS. SHE WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT RESEACH HAS SHOWN THAT DENTISTS HAVE THE HIGHEST

SUICIDE RATE OF ANY PROFESSION. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE HAS EVER BEEN ANY RESEARCH THAT HAS CHECKED THE SUICIDE RATE OF DENTAL ASSISTANTS.

AT THE TIME I MEET DEBBIE, SHE WAS STILL STRUGGLING WITH HER OWN HEALTH. HER MARRIAGE EVENTUALLY FAILED DUE TO ALL OF THE STRESS OF BOTH HEALTH AND FINANCES...DEBBIE TRIED TO HANG ON, BUT SHE COULD NO LONGER COPE WITH HER CIRCUMSTANCES. SHE TOOK HER OWN LIFE...WOULD THINGS HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF SHE HAD BEEN EMPLOYED IN ANOTHER PROFESSION? WOULD THINGS HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF SHE WAS NOT EXPOSED TO SUCH HIGH LEVELS OF MERCURY FOR SO MANY YEARS?

WHAT WE KNOW TODAY IS THAT MERCURY IS A POISON; IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND WILL ALWAYS BE. WE KNOW THAT MANY MEDICAL USES AS WELL AS HOUSEHOLD AND INDUSTRIAL USES OF MERCURY HAVE BEEN BANNED. WE KNOW THAT THE ONLY PROFESSION STILL HANGING ON TO THE USE OF MERCURY IS THE DENTAL INDUSTRY, WHAT WE DON'T KNOW IS WHY...

WE ARE REQUESTING THAT THIS BOARD PLACES A MORATORIUM ON MERCURY DENTAL FILLINGS FOR THE PROTECTION OF EVERYONE WHO IS IN THE DENTAL PROFESSION. THERE HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT RESEARCH COMPLETED GLOBALLY ON THE DANGERS OF EXPOSURE TO MERCURY IN HUMANS AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENT. IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST TO PROTECT THE DENTISTS, THE DENTAL ASSISTANTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND THE PATIENTS AT THE VERY LEAST THE BOARD SHOULD RAISE THE STAFFY STANDARD FOR THIS PROFESSION.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO DEBBIE, IN HER MEMORY I HOPE THAT THIS BOARD WILL PROTECT THE FUTURE DENTAL PROFESSIONALS...IT WAS HER GREATEST WISH...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME...