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April 11, 2005

Barbara Anthony, Director, Northeast Region
Federal Trade Commission
1 Bowling Green
New York, NY 10004

The Honorable [G. Steven Rowe](#)
Attorney General of Maine
State House Station 6
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Attorney General Rowe and Director Anthony:

The Maine People's Alliance endorses the attached petition to you from Consumers for Dental Choice, and asks for an immediate investigation of the American Dental Association. This Chicago-based trade group, in oral testimony and in a four-page letter signed by its president and executive director, threatened the withdrawal of dental services to Maine's children if the Legislature bans mercury fillings.

Maine People's Alliance certainly has no objection to the ADA asking that a law be passed or not passed – that is its right. And we have no argument whatsoever with the Maine Dental Association, with whom we have worked closely in the past and want to do so in the future. Nor is this letter any reflection on the dentists of our state.

But the ADA, with 70% market control of dental services, has the power to organize an effort to limit or withdraw dental services, and its letter suggests an intent to do so. This chilling letter suggests the organization is preparing to withdraw or limit the provision of dental services to Maine children:

“The result will be treatment delayed, treatment denied, and treatment never being sought. That is not a situation the dentists of Maine, the United States, or our policymakers can be willing to accept.” (My emphasis.)

The second sentence suggest a course of action to make the first sentence come true. We are especially troubled that the ADA feels it is the policymakers, not our public officials.

The ADA says it targets children and the handicapped with its mercury fillings, even though children are the first ones protected from mercury fillings in Canada. The ADA says mercury fillings are necessary for dental care, a statement that is simply not true, as one-third of dentists no longer use these fillings at all.

We ask you to investigate ADA's endorsement contracts with amalgam manufacturers. When a national organization doesn't disclose its economic ties to the manufacturers it is defending, we believe it's time to get the cards on the table. We therefore petition the Attorney General of Maine and the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the ADA for a potential boycott to withdraw dental services from the children of Maine. We believe a court injunction could stop such action before it can succeed.

Sincerely,

Jesse Graham