



Join Communities Around the World in Defeating Mercury-Silver/Amalgam Fillings

By Charles G. Brown, National Counsel for Consumers for Dental Choice
with Karen Larré, *Truly Alive* Publisher

There have been so many stories of progress and success in fighting mercury pollution in communities around the world and winning, that it's hard to choose which one(s) to focus on in this issue.

On November 30th, 2011, Charles G. Brown, National Counsel for Consumers for Dental Choice wrote about a win in Spring Hill, Tennessee. He writes, "When dentists use mercury, their patients are not the only ones at risk – dental mercury pollution threatens the entire community."

Now informed communities are starting to fight back...and win. Last June in Spring Hill, Tennessee, a funeral business sought the city's approval to build a crematory. But Spring Hill residents were well aware that crematories emit significant amounts of mercury from silver/amalgam fillings, which are cremated along with bodies.

In fact, atmospheric emissions from amalgam burden us with 50-70 tons of mercury pollution every year. In the environment, this dental mercury converts to methylmercury and threatens the developing neurological systems of children and unborn babies especially. Armed with this knowledge, Citizens for a Better Spring Hill petitioned the city council to protect their children from the proposed crematory's dental mercury emissions.

Consumers for Dental Choice was honored to support Citizens

for a Better Spring Hill's efforts. For years, we've been fighting dental mercury pollution – from obtaining Capitol Hill hearings about it to fruitfully urging the World Health Organization to do something about it to educating delegates at the mercury treaty sessions about it. Working with dedicated Spring Hill advocates like Dave Zirschky, Consumers for Dental Choice presented a letter to city officials explaining this emerging environmental issue.

At a hearing last week, Citizens for a Better Spring Hill braced itself for the city council vote that would determine the fate of the proposed crematory. Their five months of concentrated grassroots work paid off – the city council voted 8-1 against the proposed crematory, protecting the community's children from this major source of dental mercury pollution.

As resident Leslie Szeliga exclaimed, "This is huge, Huge! I mean this town stuck together, did research, got everyone to change their minds, and got that whole panel, except for the mayor." To see video clips from the intense hearing, log onto: <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/16090447/spring-hill-crematory-voted-down>

Congratulations to Citizens for a Better Spring Hill. Your appreciation of the dental mercury pollution problem, your focused grassroots campaign, and your success are an inspiration.


On December 1st, 2011, Mr. Brown writes, "The Chicago Tribune just released an enlightened article on the decline of mercury fillings, entitled 'Mercury fillings 'filled' with controversy.'" After interviewing Professor Boyd Haley, FDA-appointed consultant Dr. Mike Fleming, and myself, the reporter concludes that amalgam fillings "have lost their luster over the last couple of decades." As she explains in the article, this trend is due to the rise in "concerns about the environmental and health impact of their chief ingredient: mercury" and the availability of many non-mercury filling materials.

You can see the article in full by visiting this link: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sc-health-1130-dental-fillings-20111130,0,5569350.story>. But don't just read the article... take a strike at the pro-mercury American Dental Association (ADA) on its home turf in Chicago, Illinois. Here's what you can do:

SPEAK OUT: Let the pro-mercury ADA know what you think about dental mercury by posting a comment below the article. With the American Dental Association headquarters located in Chicago, you can be sure they are reading the Chicago Tribune. Tell the ADA and other Tribune readers how dental mercury was implanted in your body without your consent, how dental mercury threatens your children's developing neurological systems, and how dental mercury is dumped into your community's environment. **SHARE!** Send this article to your friends on Facebook and Twitter. Everyone needs to know what the ADA is not telling them: amalgam is mercury. Thank you, my friends and colleagues, in advance!

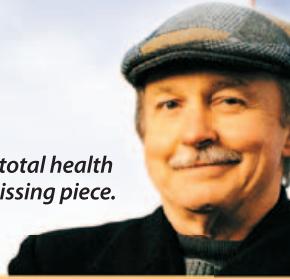
These individual articles are available on the Consumers for Dental Choice website: <http://toxiceeth.org>, or you can email the link for the Truly Alive website: www.trulyalive.net, and instruct your friends to click on the "Online Magazines" button to view the Jan/Feb 2012 issue.

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