

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1007

February 23, 2010

Dear Colleague:

Recently, you received a Dear Colleague letter from Representatives Diane Watson and Dan Burton regarding H.R. 4615, the Consumers Have Options for Molar Protection (CHOMP) Act. **We urge you to OPPOSE H.R. 4615.**

H.R. 4615 is predicated on the notion that dental amalgam is harmful because it contains mercury. That is simply false.


On July 28, 2009, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a final rule that categorized dental amalgam as a Class II medical device, which is the same class as gold and tooth-colored composite fillings. After reviewing over 200 scientific studies, the FDA's decision confirms the broadly accepted position that dental amalgam is safe and cannot be shown to cause harm to patients. As part of its ruling, the FDA clearly stated:

"The best available scientific evidence supports the conclusion that patients with dental amalgam fillings are not at risk for mercury-associated adverse health effects..."

Dental amalgam is perfectly safe and is often times the most effective option in treating certain oral-health issues. Unfortunately, H.R. 4615 attempts to undermine science by forcing dentists to provide patients with a government-developed fact sheet about the "risks" of dental amalgam. Instead of allowing dentists to consult with patients using their best medical and scientific knowledge, this bill inserts the government into the doctor-patient relationship. In addition, since the FDA has concluded that dental amalgam is perfectly safe; developing a fact sheet is entirely unnecessary and only serves to make more work for government bureaucrats and cost taxpayers more money.

As dentists and lawmakers who believe that the best public policy is based on credible science and limited government intervention, we urge you to OPPOSE H.R. 4615.

Sincerely,


John Linder


Mike Simpson

PLEASE DIRECT ALL POSTAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

1026 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1007

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER