

ATTACHMENT B

New Era Dental Society
Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia Board of Health Hearing
Amalgam dental Fillings Information Sheet
Renee Fennell- Dempsey, D. M.D.
Representing the New Era Dental Society
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As the 2010 – 2012 president of the New Era Dental Society, I submit this testimony to the Philadelphia Board of Health Hearings on the issue of the Amalgam Dental Fillings Information Sheet.

New Era Dental Society represents minority dentists in the greater Philadelphia area. Many of our practices are in the inner city of Philadelphia and represent the underserved, the uninsured and underinsured population.

Based on our review of the current literature as well as the experiences of our members, the New Era Dental Society, along with the National Dental Association supports the findings of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and others that dental amalgam is a safe and effective restorative material.

From the experiences of our members, especially those serving the uninsured and underinsured population, the information brochure, impacts negatively on our patients care. We have three main issues that we would like for the Board to consider:

The Information sheet needlessly slants the patient into believing that amalgams are dangerous when the FDA says otherwise. They feel that they are going to get cancer from the amalgams and want all of their amalgams removed when the FDA recommends against this practice.

Also many patients don't understand the negative side of composite resins which are not stated in the brochure: that many times they don't last as long as amalgams, they have greater tooth sensitivity, and they are more susceptible to secondary caries.

Lastly, since most insurance does not cover posterior composites, the patients are upset about the amalgams but cannot afford to pay for alternative treatment. This has in many cases undermined the trust relationship of doctor and patient.