



May 6, 2025

Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Service
Washington, DC

**Dental professionals urge HHS:
End dental amalgam in government programs with the stroke of a pen**

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As dentists and dental professionals, we advise you that dental amalgam (often deceptively marketed as “silver fillings”) contains mercury that threatens patients’ health, contaminates the dental workplace, and pollutes our environment – from tribal lands to military bases.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a 2020 safety communication warning against amalgam use in children; women who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding; and people with neurological disorders, kidney impairments, or allergies to amalgam components. In the wake of FDA’s warning, major U.S. dental manufacturers exited the amalgam business in favor of mercury-free products. But the bureaucracies at HHS refused to change, often still using imported foreign amalgam even in children.

We know from firsthand experience that amalgam is not needed in dental care because:

- Mercury-free fillings superior to amalgam: they are long-lasting, easier to repair than amalgam, and better preserve tooth structure (which must be removed for amalgam placement, weakening the tooth).
- The cost to purchase mercury-free materials is similar to the cost of amalgam, and the labor costs are the same because dentists can place mercury-free fillings as fast as amalgam.
- Mercury-free fillings are appropriate for all patients – even for challenging cases in people with extensive dental caries, low-income individuals, and children with disabilities.

Our military personnel and their families, Native Americans, institutionalized people, and low-income children deserve better than mercury from government dental programs. We recognize that a highlight of your career is a deep concern about major uses of mercury. You now have the opportunity to end amalgam in federal dental programs with the stroke of a pen. We urge you to order all HHS agencies to stop buying and using this mercury product. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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