

New Philadelphia "Fact Sheet" Law Presents Opportunity and Challenge.

After a four-year battle, we have a fact sheet law in Philadelphia, the first city to adopt such a law. Our cause was led by **Freya Koss**, head of the PA Coalition for Mercury-Free Dentistry, who assembled a grassroots team, worked with the city government, and engaged the press. The sponsor was **Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown**, who tirelessly worked through the amending and the educating of her fellow Councilpersons to build a unanimous vote on December 13, 2007, for passage of the law. Consumers for Dental Choice honored Blondell as our Public Official of the Year.

The law requires the Philadelphia Board of Health to write a fact sheet within six months. It requires every dentist who still uses mercury fillings to give the fact sheet to every patient and parent. And here's some great news; the law **requires the participation of Consumers for Dental Choice**, one of three groups named to be consultants. I have written the Commissioner of Health stating what the law requires and the need to comply with law's rigid timetables.

As with all fact sheet laws --- e.g., California, Maine, New Hampshire --- passing the law is only half the battle. The other half is to make sure that powerful dentist bureaucrats inside government don't sandbag the law. We must not assume that passing the law means it will be enforced; our experience is to the contrary, unless we are eternally vigilant.

Hence, Consumers for Dental Choice has designated Freya to be our negotiator at City Hall; remember, we have an official role to play so they must listen to us. Freya will again be using a grassroots strategy to victory. She welcomes your assistance and your ideas; frekoss@aol.com. Our website will give updates of, e.g., the Board of Health's upcoming public meeting. For more info, see www.toxicteeth.org/natcamp_stategovt_pa_amalgam_fact_sheet_law.cfm

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