

To All Members of the House and Senate,

It is very difficult to imagine that fourteen years after the United States Government decided mercury was too toxic to be applied topically to the human body, that we would need an Act of Congress to prevent it from being deliberately injected into the bodies of pregnant women and children.

In 1991, over the counter products containing the mercury preservative, Thimerosal, were taken off the market. In 1999, the FDA directed drug companies to remove mercury preservatives from childhood vaccines but failed to recall the mercury containing shots and most stayed on the market until 2002. It is now 2005 and mercury is still being used to manufacture vaccines. In fact, most flu shots contain levels of mercury that are above EPA safety limits for anyone weighing less than 500 pounds.

Do you weigh less than 500 pounds? How many of your constituents weigh less than 500 pounds? How much does a fetus weigh? How much does a six-month-old child weigh? How much mercury was in the flu shot you got last fall? Did you opt for the mercury-free version and deny a child back home that option?

For the second time since his reelection in 2004, President Bush has denied our request to issue a ban that would protect pregnant women and children from mercury that can damage the immune system and brain. If the FDA cannot protect us from harm, the President needs to step up to the plate and get it done.

Parents are tired of waiting for government health agencies - the FDA and CDC - to protect the unborn and children from being hurt by a known neurotoxin.

The buck stops at the President's desk.

Our grass roots are now rooted. The ads you see included here will run in your districts soon. Public Service Announcements on this issue will be on air on your local radio stations. Billboards will be popping up along the highways back home. Flyers will be distributed in mall parking lots, through neighborhood canvassing and appear in church bulletins.

Your constituents are determined to pay for these ads and get the job done that the United States Government refuses to do - warn pregnant women and parents of children about the danger of mercury in vaccines.

Your constituents are watching what the President and Congress does about getting mercury out of vaccines. We intend to keep them well informed of the progress, or lack thereof, of the entire United States Government on this issue.

Because mercury kills cells, mercury is toxic. Safer options exist for America's children.

Drug companies could boost production and meet consumer demands for vaccines without mercury if a market allowing mercury-containing vaccines was eliminated.

Mercury free vaccines cost a few dollars more per shot to produce.

We believe the future of America's children is worth that investment.

Sincerely,



Shelley Hendrix Reynolds, President
Unlocking Autism



Barbara Loe Fisher, President
National Vaccine Information Center