



News From
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Federal Government Admits Child's Autism is Linked to Vaccinations

Weldon's Vaccine Safety Legislation Eliminates Conflicts of Interest, Funds Vigorous Safety Office

WASHINGTON, D.C. - At a press conference earlier today, in federal court the Federal Government admitted to Dr. Jon and Terry Poling that their child's autism was directly related to the five vaccines their daughter received at 20 months of age. Yet, the federal government lacks a vigorous and independent vaccine safety program to investigate this issue further and to discern which other children may be at risk.

"Sadly, the federal government is ill-prepared to address the serious issues raised by this admission," said US Congressman Dave Weldon, a physician. "As vaccine safety concerns have grown over the past decade, CDC's response has been to bury their head in the sand hoping the problem would go away. After today's admission, the CDC responded by digging deeper."

"They sent their vaccine promotion officer - rather than their vaccine safety officer - out to reassure the public that 'large studies don't support a relationship between vaccines and autism.' It's past time for the Federal government to replace their statistics books and calculators with microscopes and research so that we can understand the biological mechanisms that are taking place. We need to be able to develop safer vaccines and screen for children who are at risk."

"I am a strong supporter of childhood immunizations, but it is critically important that our immunization program have a vigorous, independent and well-funded safety program," added Weldon. "The CDC is the principle federal agency charged with vaccine safety research, but they are seriously conflicted. Their top priority is maintaining high immunization rates, while vaccine safety ranks near the bottom both in priorities and funding. "

Reps. Dave Weldon, M.D. and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced the Vaccine Safety and Public Confidence Assurance Act of 2007 (H.R. 1973) to establish an independent office to address, investigate, and head off potential vaccine safety problems in an objective and non-conflicted office whose sole purpose is vaccine safety and evaluation. The bill funds the program at \$80 million. "The public has begun to question whether our government is doing all it can to ensure vaccine safety—and they are absolutely right to do so," said Congresswoman Maloney. "When we in government require children to be vaccinated, we must make every possible effort to ensure that vaccines are safe."

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