

Mercury (Thimerosal) in Vaccines: FDA and CDC “Guilty” of Misconduct, Says Senate Report

Press Release

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WASHINGTON, DC – After an 18-month investigation into alleged government misconduct regarding Thimerosal in childhood vaccines, and its causal association with autism, Senator Enzi (R-Wyoming), Ranking Member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, concluded, “*Two allegations were sustained [and] one allegation was partially substantiated...*”

Key among the substantiated allegations was the finding that: “*FDA inappropriately utilized Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines regarding the dangers of mercury in vaccines containing thimerosal.*” Thus, the FDA may have miscalculated the toxicity of Thimerosal in vaccines routinely administered to millions of pregnant women and children.

In addition, Senator Enzi acknowledged that a CDC-organized meeting, held June 7 and 8, 2000, at the Simpsonwood United Methodist Retreat Center, to discuss a study showing a link between mercury exposure through vaccines and autism, was questionable: “*The CDC’s failure to invite to Simpsonwood representatives of advocacy groups, in combination with injudicious remarks by several Simpsonwood participants, did give rise to an appearance of impropriety.*”

Other areas of concern included:

- Oversight agencies characterized by conflict of interest: The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, which reviewed the evidence and found no link between mercury exposure from vaccines and autism, inappropriately screened “*potential committee members for possible conflicts of interest.*”
- Government data used to assess the link between vaccine-related mercury exposure and autism was “*...less than open and accessible to all researchers.*”
- Despite mercury being decreased in some vaccines given to American children, no such decrease has been effected in vaccines manufactured and distributed to developing countries: “*The contention that thimerosal is used in vaccines provided to third-world and developing countries is accurate.*”

This report, released by Senator Enzi, is another in a long line of reports by government officials addressing the toxicity of mercury in medicine and reflecting the “*...institutional malfeasance for self-protection and misplaced protectionism of the pharmaceutical industry*”¹ by US public health officials.

Parents of children with proven mercury poisoning now ask: How many reports by federal officials will be required before the national health agencies act to:

- Remove mercury from medicine,
- Recall and destroy drugs containing added mercury compounds, and
- Ban the production and distribution of medicines containing added mercury in the United States,

unless proven safe (“*sufficiently nontoxic ...*”) and no mercury-free alternative exists?

For more information, go to: <http://www.mercury-freedrugs.org>

¹ “Mercury in Medicine – Taking Unnecessary Risks,” Chairman Dan Burton, Government Reform Committee, Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness, May 2003.