

Dear Chairman Young:

I am 71 years old and a retired school psychologist. When I was in graduate school in the mid 1970's I became interested in a new and relatively rare (1 in 11,000) condition afflicting school children called "autism." Our class travelled to Children's Psychiatric Center (then a part of the University Medical Complex) to observe an experimental classroom of autistics.

In subsequent years as a practicing school psychologist I began to encounter autistic children, as well as children with other severe to moderate handicaps, whose mothers told me the same story (part of my job was to get a detailed medical and developmental history). Their child had a normal birth and was achieving developmental milestones normally (crawling, walking, language, etc.) until they received a certain vaccination and developed a very high fever. They stopped making eye contact, stopped accepting physical contact, and lost the use of verbal language. And also I heard the refrain: "It was the vaccine."

In the late 1980's and 1990's I witnessed an epidemic of autism and learning disabilities among the children we were working with. Schools were having to add more and more special education programs and hire more psychologists, more LD teachers, more speech therapists, and more tutors.

So where was the increase in the numbers of handicapped children coming from? I believe the mothers. Parallel with the increase in handicapped school children there was an increase in the number of vaccines recommended by the medical establishment and they were being administered at younger and younger ages. The common factor in autism, mental retardation, and learning disabilities is brain damage. Where was the brain damage coming from? If you study the science (the toxicology) behind vaccines and vaccine ingredients the answer seems obvious to me. Many of the ingredients in vaccines, mercury, aluminum, formaldehyde, polysorbate 80 and others are neurotoxins (they kill brain tissue). For hundreds of thousands of children the "cure" is worse than the disease (measles mumps, rubella, etc.). The rate of autism in America today is approximately 1 in 50.

Fast forward to 1999. I was visiting with my parents in their living room when my father, who was in his mid-80's, tried to get up from the couch, but was unable to do so. This was a man in robust health who did sit-ups and pushups and went for walks of a mile or more every day. We took him to his doctor to get checked as one leg was becoming swollen. I do not remember what the doctor said or did, but we brought him home only to see him grow progressively weaker. It got to the point that when he was sitting my wife and I had to lift him to his feet and support him from both sides of his body for him to move from point A to point B. After a few days passed he began having breathing difficulties and we called for the life squad. He was admitted immediately and put on a ventilator. When we met with a neurologist who was called in to discuss my father's condition the first question he asked was "Has he had a flu shot recently?" Which he did have a couple of weeks prior. My father almost died and spent six months in the hospital.

If you were to Google "Guillain-Barre syndrome and flu vaccine" the article that comes up states that the risk of getting GBS following the flu vaccine is "very small, about one in a million." If that was true, why would the neurologist bother to ask the question?

Over the years I have heard of numerous cases of friends and acquaintances who have had serious negative consequences following the flu shot. The bottom line is this: the decision to inject foreign toxic substances into one's body should reside with the individual and that individual alone. If vaccines are safe and effective, a vaccinated individual is not at risk from an unvaccinated individual. To require any individual to receive a vaccination against his will for any reason is an act of tyranny that has no place in a free society.