

Members of the Senate Finance - Health and Medicaid Subcommittee,

My name is Lindsey Evans. I am the mother of a vaccine injured child. At the age of two months, I was hesitant to have my son receive all the vaccines on the schedule as of May of 2012. I voiced my concern to the nurse that my son was a small-size baby and he was in the NICU after birth and that I would like to space out his vaccines. The nurse then told me that - all of the shots have the same ingredients, so if he had a reaction we wouldn't know which one so you should just get them today. Plus if you space them out you'll have to come back and spend \$10 each visit so it's best to get them today.

I now know that the nurse lied to my face. Vaccines do not have all the same ingredients, however I believe she was uneducated about this fact. My son received all the recommended shots that day. He screamed immediately after, I nursed him and he fell asleep on the way home. We then arrived home and within two hours of his vaccines he started again to cry. This wasn't just a cry, but a scream. A scream that nothing we could do would stop. His legs were red and hot, he did not want to bend his legs. He then developed a fever. We were advised to give him tylenol after the vaccines if he was uncomfortable. We did, however it did not relieve his pain.

He continued to have a poor reaction to his four and six month sets of shots. We continued to vaccinate because we were told "some babies just cry a lot" after I told his Dr that he cries all day unless he's sleeping. He also had severe acid reflux and a dairy allergy.

For my son's two year well visit we found a new pediatrician. When I explained to our new pediatrician what his reaction was to his two month shots, she was very much in agreement that it was an adverse reaction to his vaccination. Even stating "it was probably the Prevnar." I was still at the time not made aware of the existence of the VAERS database or the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.

Stranger still, when we returned for my son's three year well check, the same Dr said that there was probably no link between my son's vaccines and his epilepsy and developmental delay. Even though the year before she agreed that there may be. She also told me that "no vaccine has ever been proven safe." Which is in direct opposition of what the Ohio AAP representation is saying in their testimony. She also said her office required me to sign a paper stating that I am knowingly putting my child in harms way by refusing to further vaccinate him. I

did not sign the form, because for my child vaccinating him further would be a 100% chance of injury given his history of adverse reactions.

My son is now 5 years old. He has speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and a sensory diet at the integrated preschool he attends. He was diagnosed with Early Pediatric Partial-Complex Temporal Lobe Epilepsy at 2.5 years old. His MRIs, EEGs and genetic testing have not shown a cause. However, vaccine inserts themselves state that encephalitis and epilepsy are reported adverse reactions to the very vaccinations my son received at his two month appointment.

Since my son's reaction and before I gave birth to my second child, I have found that I have a genetic mutation of the MTHFR gene. This mutation means that I cannot methylate toxins from my body as those without the mutation can. This affects approximately 40% of the world population. Symptoms of this mutation include a stork bite birthmark, cleft palate, midline defects and upper frenulum and tongue tie. Myself, my son and my daughter all are affected with upper frenulum and tongue ties. This shows that my children, although not genetically tested may have this same mutation as I carry. Therefore, having this knowledge I have chosen not to vaccinate my son further or my daughter from birth. I just can't take the risk.

Now those same doctors that deny my son even had an adverse reaction to his vaccines want to have me come to their office, pay a co-pay, exhaust my out-of-pocket deductible and possibly deny my right as a parent to make a decision in the best interest of my child.

I would like to ask this subcommittee PLEASE OPPOSE any self-serving AAP amendments to HB 49 to force families using a vaccine exemption to pay for an office visit to their members who oppose vaccine exemptions or to require intrusive vaccine exemption tracking which can lead to more harassment, coercion and discrimination.

I do not wish to be harassed by an organization who would force me to bring a genetically similar sibling of my vaccine injured child, that has no health issues into their office so that they may or may not decide to grant my religious or reason of conscious exemption. It is well established science that certain vaccines are derived from aborted fetal cells. It is my deeply held religious belief that abortion is wrong. To have a doctor question my religious beliefs is the most

egregious violation of my freedom of religion that I can think of, as it is nowhere within their training or expertise.

The AAP supports eliminating all religious, personal and conscientious belief exemptions to any vaccines. They do not respect the religious and conscientious beliefs of those who choose not to follow the one-size-fits-all vaccination schedule.

It is an extreme conflict of interest for the AAP to ask for an amendment to a budget bill that makes a major change to Ohio State Law that will significantly financially benefit their members.

Physicians and vaccine manufacturers have no liability for vaccine injuries and deaths. The only recourse is to go through the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program set up in 1986 when the federal law was passed providing liability protection. To date, over 3.6 billion dollars has been paid out of this compensation program for vaccine injuries and deaths. Currently, even though my son's reaction was a textbook case of encephalitis (diagnosed by an integrative medicine M.D. in Ohio) he does not qualify to bring suit because his reaction is "too common."

There is no public health crisis to justify forcing parents to be coerced, harassed or reeducated by physicians in an effort to change their religious or conscientious beliefs.

Again I strongly urge the members of this subcommittee to OPPOSE any amendments to HB 49 brought forth by the AAP.

Thank you,

Lindsey Evans

Urbana, Ohio