

Please oppose the AAP's amendment to House Bill 49

Do you know that RSV is highly contagious and kills more infants than flu each year [1]? Since RSV vaccine is only covered by insurance in rare circumstances, you never hear about it. This is medical politics, and the AAP is a political organization.

Some argue that "vaccines should be as non-negotiable as seat belts." Except they seem to forget we all first choose whether to drive. Vaccines are similar to cars in other ways too; they both source raw materials globally, are transported overseas, assembled by multiple parties, all manufactured into one single product or dose; all this before being distributed. My daughter simultaneously received injections from Belgium, Germany, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey [2]. How many lot numbers played a role? How many opportunities for error? This alone should warrant caution for limiting parental choice.

Allie, my healthy full term baby, received 9 combined vaccines at 6 months. Within hours she had flu-like symptoms. Being my 5th child, I knew this was common. No big deal? Wrong! Immediately following the fever a rash appeared and progressed. It was as if someone had burned off her face. The sores hot, weeping, bleeding, needing a towel to catch the fluids; her head and extremities swollen; she could no longer grasp nor walk; genitals burned and scarred; lymph nodes the size of a ping pong ball; body covered in pox-like lesions; secondary infections in the sores which would not heal. She cried in pain every night.

I documented the disease progression and consistently linked the vaccination event, but no one would listen to my case let alone consider it. Instead, an entire team of doctors debated her case discussing rare disease diagnoses, possible cancer, and needed biopsies. They were clueless.

All available treatments had failed and Allie was getting worse. I declined to admit her to the hospital because I believed she would die. By the grace of God, we found someone outside the medical industry to treat Allie for vaccine injury, and it worked. After months of suffering this horrific nightmare, Allie made a full and complete recovery. No complications, no rare disease, no cancer. It is a miracle. Others are not so lucky.

To add insult to injury, Allie was denied a medical exemption. If Allie cannot get one, who can? Doctors are afraid of retaliation; they do not want to associate their name with ANY government form that lists vaccine contraindications.

Lessons learned:

- Vaccine injured children are easily denied proper diagnosis
- In similar cases, no test exists to prove a vaccine reaction or to identify which caused it
- Parents are left to their own limited devices to find a solution
- Vaccine manufactures have complete legal immunity. There is no justice for Allie.

Now that I'm vocal, I meet people in casual conversation who have children injured by vaccines, but like myself, had no recourse of action. Other conversations have been hostile. Instead of sympathizing,

Allie's experience has been trivialized, friendships lost, and it was suggested to segregate my child. This is the reality of our fear-induced environment.

AAP's Dr. Sean Gallagher publicly added to the hostility by tweeting "#HangingOffense" [4] in support of the Boston Herald article which stated that questioning vaccines "ought to be a hanging offense" [5]. In his article titled "Vaccines are safe and save lives" Dr. Gallagher compared parents like me to those who commit criminal acts [6]. This does not describe a caring physician, but rather a political, extreme, for-profit resident who just wants to get his name on something. Is this the type of person we should have testifying for legislation? His testimony should be denied.

The AAP defines medical neglect as a form of child abuse [7]. As their agenda moves forward to vaccinate all, we are seeing innocent parents reported to CPS simply for declining vaccines, being interpreted as declining medical advice [8]. With this amendment, should I worry that requesting an exemption will result in a report for neglect? This may not be feasible now in Ohio, but it is legal in five other states [8]. Should I worry that my pediatrician might fire us as patients if we do not comply with the CDC schedule [9]? If this amendment is passed, unethical and discriminatory situations such as these will likely follow. Clearly this is not some light hearted law to save our children; it is a political agenda.

I also disagree with Dr. Gallagher that further education is needed before gaining exemptions. Vaccine literature is available at schools, recreation centers, retailers, on TV, etc. We are so bombarded with information that the average parents can mimic a doctor when it comes to promoting vaccines.

Most parents seeking exemptions have heard both sides of the debate - let them choose autonomously. With the philosophical exemption in tact, I do not need to have a conversation with a doctor; I have the authority to protect my child. Please do not change that! I do not wish to schedule and pay for an office visit for administrative paperwork, which is likewise a burden for the doctors themselves, and simply duplicates the information that is already given during appointments.

Where there is risk, there must be a choice! Please oppose the AAP immunization amendment.

Sources

[1] "Mortality in children from influenza and respiratory syncytial virus." J Epidemiol Community Health. 2005 Jul; 59(7): 586-590.

[2] Vaccine Inserts: Pediarix (Belgium, Germany), ActHIB (PA), RotaTeq (NJ)

[4] Link to Twitter screenshot #HangingOffense, since original post was deleted:

<http://www.ageofautism.com/2017/05/dr-sean-gallagher-promotes-violence-against-parents.html>

[5] "Preying on parents' fear." Boston Herald. 2017
http://www.bostonherald.com/opinion/editorials/2017/05/editorial_preying_on_parents_fear

[6] "Vaccines are safe and save lives". Columbus Dispatch. 2017
<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/the-columbus-dispatch/20170402/283545155528602>

[7] "Parental Resistance to Childhood Immunizations." AMA Journal of Ethics.
<http://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/2006/10/pfor1-0610.html>

[8] "Parental Refusal of Childhood Vaccines and Medical Neglect Laws." MedScape.
<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/873766>

[9] "Doctors "fire" patients who refuse vaccines for their children". CBS News.
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/doctors-fire-patients-who-refuse-vaccines-for-their-children-ethical/>