

Senator Richard Codey
449 Mount Pleasant Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052

February 27, 2008

Re: Primary Co-Sponsorship of the S-1071 Conscientious Exemption to Vaccination

Dear Senator Codey,

We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss New Jersey's mandatory vaccination laws and ask that ***you become a primary co-sponsor of S-1071***, the Conscientious Exemption to Mandatory Vaccination bill. The state of New Jersey is responsible for protecting its citizens' rights and we choose to join 20 other states that have enacted similar conscientious exemption legislation.

Parents/guardians should have the right to choose which vaccines are safe and appropriate for their own children. Furthermore, New Jersey's vaccination policy is in direct conflict with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration, supported worldwide, which states medical experimentation should only be carried out on those **who have been informed of all risks and have willingly consented**. According to Barbara Loe Fisher, a dedicated vaccine researcher and educator, as well as co-founder of the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC):

"Regardless of whether there is an absence of certain knowledge, there is a MORAL imperative that transcends all arguments, and that is when a pharmaceutical product or medical intervention carries a risk of injury or death, informed consent is the ethical standard which must be applied as it is applied in all other aspects of medical treatment that involve risk taking. Informed consent is the gold standard in the ethical practice of modern medicine."

It is widely estimated that only about 10% of pediatricians discuss vaccine risks with their patients or their parents; the vast majority never do. Forcing children to be vaccinated by NJ law, without their parents being properly educated of the risks and side effects, is the very antithesis of informed consent. According to package inserts developed by vaccine manufacturers, the side effects of vaccines include Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDs), encephalitis (brain damage/autism), seizures, paralysis, arthritis, diabetes, asthma, multiple sclerosis, and anaphylactic shock. What parent should be forced to vaccinate their child with these risks without being given the right to a Conscientious Exemption?

Furthermore, the state of New Jersey is violating another gold standard of modern medical ethics: the principle of the double blind study. Not one of the childhood vaccines on NJ's mandated schedule has been tested in clinical trials against unvaccinated children. We are in contact with many, many New Jerseyans who believe that unbiased, rigorous medical studies must support the mandates for the Influenza and Prevnar vaccines for children as part of the overall public health policy, or it is medically, ethically, and scientifically irresponsible to mandate such vaccines.

New Jersey is experiencing the consequences of these medical and governmental violations, and we believe it is reflected in our soaring autism rate of 1 in 60 NJ boys. As you may know, one claim, the first of 4,900 autism cases currently pending in Federal "Vaccine Court," was just conceded by US Assistant Attorney General Peter Keisler and other Justice Department officials, on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services. This admission by the Court of a link between vaccines and autism confirms the convictions of 80% of parents of autistic children; whereby the vaccines caused their children's autism. We are working with concerned parents across New Jersey to support every parent's right to make educated health care decisions for their families.

Senator Codey, we also ask that you consider the costs involved in mandating vaccines and their liability. We would like to know the true costs involved in paying for vaccine mandates as well as autism in New Jersey. The calculation should minimally encompass:

- Cost of currently mandated, as well as the proposed, shots paid for by our government. The state pays outright through assistance programs for poor children to receive them; we all pay for them through our skyrocketing NJ health insurance costs and taxes
- Cost of caring for the over 8,000 autistic children in NJ (that today are between the age of 6 and 17) when they turn 21 and possibly become wards of the state
- Special education costs, which are soaring in every district. It is rumored that 75% of school budgets today go toward special ed. Could you confirm this?
- Who pays for, and how do children get admitted into the new state-of-the art Warren facility for autistic children? Are they bussed in from all over the state, or is it for just local children? Further, is NJ planning to erect such facilities in every county? (\$\$\$)
- Extra administrative and marketing costs associated with such massive public policy initiatives. Flu shot programs especially demand administrative efforts to balance demand with product. Still, more than 10 million of 110 million doses produced this year (2007-08 season) will be dumped since they expire and cannot be used next fall. In a typical year, 10 to 15 percent of the season's flu vaccine goes unused, and is destroyed every June. As just one example, the Ocean County Health Department will discard about \$220,000 worth of shots outright, which was their cost for this year's approximately 16,000 unused shots. How many other counties are doing the same across New Jersey?
- Cost of Social Security benefits for Autistic / Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD). For example, the number of children under the age of 21 receiving SSI benefits nationally jumped from 38,324 in 2002 to just over 68,000 in 2006.
- Note that treatment for autistic patients is *not* presently paid for by healthcare insurance in NJ. Parents bear this expense out of pocket, and it has driven many to financial ruin.

Senator Codey, we also ask that you consider rescinding the authority of the NJ Public Health Council in making such biased mandates. In 1947 the NJ Constitution 26:1A-7) gave the Health Department "Public Health Council" the authority to write vaccination regulations. Most states do not give this enormous power to their Health Departments. If you are planning a Constitutional Convention, we encourage you to remove their vaccination authority.

We have compiled legislative informational sheets on vaccine safety. Please see the attached final two pages for your review. We look forward to meeting with you in person to discuss this truly life and death issue as soon as possible. We thank you for the role you played in abolishing the death penalty to protect the loss of innocent life. We hope you see the parallel here whereby NJ laws force some parents to take the lives of their own infants. The social and medical benefits of mass vaccination have never been proven; sacrificing any child is unacceptable in our society.

Respectfully,

(signed by 11 constituents in his District 27)

Cc: Governor Jon Corzine, Assembly Speaker Roberts, Asm. John McKeon, Asw. Mila Jasey