



## The Erosion of Public Trust & Informed Consent through Immunization Harassment, Discrimination and Coercion

Dear Members of the House Public Health Committee,

During the March 26<sup>th</sup> House Public Health Committee Hearing on various immunization bills, Committee Chair Jaime Capelo requested that to better educate the committee about our concerns, that our organization provide this committee with specific incidents of harassment, discrimination and coercion of Texas families over immunizations and informed consent.

To satisfy the privacy and confidentiality concerns of our members who have named the offending individuals and institutions, we have stripped the personal identifying information of the survey participants. If you have an interest in speaking in person with any particular one of the families, we will be happy to submit your request directly to them.

**We respectfully request that this committee schedule for an immediate public hearing HB 2840 and HB 2842 by Representative Frank Corte which directly speak to addressing some of these issues. It is concerning that these bills just continue to sit in this committee without a chance to be heard and ultimately preventing these injustices from being corrected.**

By providing for expanded exemptions for immunization requirements, HB 2840 statutorily guarantees Texas citizens the right to decline immunization. Texas is one of only 9 states without a broad religious or personal belief exemption. All other border states and all the states surrounding Texas have conscientious exemptions with no significant impact on immunization rates or disease rates. Additionally, HB 2842 further strengthens the immunization tracking system while protecting medical privacy and informed consent rights by clearly defining reporting requirements by immunization providers.

We hope that you will see from these incident reports that there is a real problem in Texas that is guaranteed to get worse if the laws are not changed. A system so inflexible that ignores the needs and concerns of individuals applying a one-size-fits-all policy and does not bend will ultimately break.

Sincerely,  
Dawn Richardson, President  
Parents Requesting Open Vaccine Education

# Incidents of Harassment, Discrimination or Coercion over Immunizations and Informed Consent

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## References to Child Protective Services

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Pediatric Associates of Austin  
HarassmentNames: Dr Hines (partner of Dr Glen Woods)  
HarassmentCity: Austin  
HarassmentState: Texas

Without discussion of any potential reactions or side effects, our son was given a vaccine (DPT?) and a dose of Children's Tylenol. We were instructed to give another dose in 4 hours and told there may be mild swelling and fever in a few cases.

Our son's leg swelled so tight, red, and hot from knee to hip, we worried it might actually burst. He cried and made high pitched screams for 5 hours and was inconsolable while continuing a 105 degree fever that didn't respond to Tylenol.

We went through considerable emotional distress and concern for our child. When we called the doctor's office, we were told this was a "normal reaction" and we were being overly concerned as new parents.

Later when we declined further vaccinations, we were lectured about causing potential harm to others and being irresponsible parents by not "protecting our son from harm." **(It was stated that "some doctors call child protective services in situations like this.")** Because of this comment, we have had a difficult time finding doctors when our insurance changed, since we feared our children being taken from us.

I was afraid of the injury any further vaccinations would cause so I researched its effectiveness and reactions. After seeing the available information, I felt it would be too dangerous to vaccinate my children. We later found that our children have a severe egg allergy. I was taught in nursing school this is a contra-indication for giving many vaccinations.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCity: San Antonio  
HarassmentState: TX

It has been virtually impossible to find a doctor that will agree to see our child because we have chosen not to immunize. Many seem to be more concerned about their own fear of being sued for not immunizing than our child's health. We have had doctors try to intimidate us by stating incidence rates in Texas that are outright lies (when compared to the childhood disease incidence rates that TDH reports on its website). **We have had doctors allude to their ability to call Child Protective Services for our immunization choices in an attempt to coerce us into vaccinating our child.** It has been virtually impossible to find a doctor that will not make us feel like we are awful parents or that our child will die because of our choice. I have two masters' degrees and virtually every time I meet with a new physician, I feel like the most incompetent parent imaginable. I cannot imagine losing the little freedom and privacy that we do have left to a reporting system that will foster the kind of medicine I have discussed above. Because of what we have experienced in Texas, we are seriously considering moving to a state with a philosophical clause, like Colorado, when our child is ready to begin school.

This has cemented our views and beliefs on immunizations, and decreased our faith in the State, the legislature and the quality of medicine in Texas.

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HarassmentCategory: School

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[www.VaccineInfo.net](http://www.VaccineInfo.net)

HarassmentCompany: Round Rock Independent School District  
 HarassmentNames: School Nurse  
 HarassmentCity: Round Rock  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 78664

The School refused to accept my notarized religious exemption for my daughters. My daughters had severe reactions to shots, which caused me to rethink what my values were/are. I decided to follow a different path in life, choosing to follow what I believe God intended. The school stated there was no religious exemption. Then recanted, stating I must have a "Pastor" sign the note, stating the address of the church, hours of services, etc. Finally I went to a physician who is a specialist. He was willing to write an exemption for my daughters, but this exemption must be re-written EVERY year, meaning I must pay big bucks for an appointment with this physician every school year so he can write this note.

We have enough financial problems just trying to make ends meet with two special needs children (caused by immunizations). Now we must endure even more expense just to protect them from further injury because the school refuses to accept our statement of faith. I feel I should bring a civil rights case, but I simply don't have the money. (or the energy. Two children with special needs, one normal child, try to add that into a place where all can enjoy life, and feel appreciated while doing the every day things like shopping, laundry household repairs and such.

I will never again allow my children to take another immunization. Their very life depends on it. **Because of their special needs, a new school personnel who didn't know the history of the children reported us to cps. The CPS folks didn't treat us as badly as the School nurse did. CPS looked at all the therapies (more than 10 weekly per child) the one on one care, not covered by insurance etc. and gave us a clean bill. It did scare the life out of us. Our children could have been taken away and put with foster families who would not have known how to care for them and would not have gotten the consistent help on therapies they need. I now live in CONSTANT FEAR that ANYONE I meet with the girls will report us, and the stress has affected me physically. My health is deteriorating. Who will care for them when I can't?**

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCity: McKinney  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 75070

My oldest son had a reaction to the MMR vaccine at @ 18 months (1998). It is noted in his medical record that I felt it was vaccine related although the attending doctor wasn't very supportive. My son had a very high fever that came and went for about a week and then started to suffer from painful joints, crying "momma, my knees hurt" for several months after the MMR injection.

Hence, my second son has not been vaccinated. The day he was born I was made to sign a waiver because I refused to give my hours old newborn the HEP B shot. Due to the military system of healthcare it was overlooked until he was about one, then the PA freaked out that he was unvaccinated. Fortunately we moved. Then we needed an ER visit. **The nurse we had was extremely rude and insulting when she discovered his status. She "warned" that I could be turned into CPS for endangering my child and told me to watch out - insinuating that she may do such.** Since that experience I have avoided going to the Dr for yearly checkups because I'm concerned of similar situations. We've been healthy - knock on wood. I have several friends that have been kicked out of Ped's offices in this area for not vaccinating. However, our current Ped appears to be respectful of our choice although the issue has not been discussed aside from the new patient data with a nurse.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor

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HarassmentCity: Dallas  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 75238

I have a young friend who just recently was told by her pediatrician that if she refused to have her new child vaccinated, she would not be able to be her doctor any longer.

**I also have a daughter who was turned in to the Child Protective Services of Texas for, among other reasons (not giving children candy etc), not getting her youngest child vaccinated.**

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital  
 HarassmentCompany: McKenna Hospital  
 HarassmentCity: New Braunfels  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 78130

We had to take our second daughter in to the emergency room one night when she was having breathing problems. The nurse asked if she was "up-to-date" on her shots. We told her that we didn't immunize. She told us that was against the law and would have to talk to the Doctor on call about the matter. **Then the Doctor came in and asked us a lot of questions that had nothing to do with our daughters illness. He was looking for anything he could to call CPS or the police.** After about 45 min. of questions, he finally looked at our daughter and wanted to do a lot of unnecessary tests on her. We told him we just wanted to make sure her lungs were clear and didn't have pneumonia. He finally let us leave after about 2 more hours of "observation".

The Doctors and Nurses made us feel like we were "bad people". They kept looking for anything we did to be wrong. They also took notes on everything we said and did while we were there.

When a doctor once told me that his immunized children still came down with Pertussis, I realized that he didn't have a clue as to the problems behind immunization without education. This experience taught me to tell only the information they need to know. Most people (including doctors and nurses) don't need to know information on my children's immunization - or lack thereof. I strongly believe that I am protecting my children from harm by not immunizing. This experience only made us more determined to protect our children at all costs.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Methodist Hospital  
 HarassmentNames: Dr. Melvin Baden, Jan Woodridge (Social worker)  
 HarassmentCity: San Antonio  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 78163

Our son William was born premature at 24 weeks gestation. He sustained numerous serious birth complications, including severe brain bleeds, lung damage, vision impairment, and underwent over 10 surgeries in the first 5 months of his life. We were informed during this time that it was standard procedure (and advised by the WHO, AAP, AMA, etc.) for these children to begin certain immunizations even prior to what would be their gestational birthday! We requested that he not be immunized until just prior to discharge, and that he not receive his Pertussis vaccination. **After a number of attempts by various staff members to convince us otherwise, Dr. Baden asked Jan Woodridge to file a report with Child Protective Services.**

**An investigation was initiated by Child Protective Services (case # 24560038) based on a report containing blatantly false information, causing great emotional distress, and necessitating the**

**consultation of a lawyer. We were ultimately informed by CPS that "[you have] been investigated and there was not sufficient information to determine if the abuse/neglect did occur and we will not be providing further services."**

What blows my mind is that I did not turn down the vaccinations. I asked for the staff to wait a reasonable amount of time before vaccinating our child, and I requested that a single vaccination be withheld. As a result I discovered that the attitude of the medical profession in general is quite simple. Vaccinations are non-optional. Vaccine forms are called "request forms" but if I choose not to "request" a vaccination, it is called "refusing to vaccinate" my child. The irony! **In my case refusal was actually used in the CPS report as a basis for abuse and neglect.** This kind of double talk and double standard is unacceptable. Parents need to be informed, but the unbelievable pressure placed on those that question vaccination must be stopped. As a result of this experience, I have not vaccinated my second son at all, until I have further investigated what in my mind is a corrupt system, regardless of the actual merits of vaccination.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Alvin Pediatric Clinic  
 HarassmentCity: Alvin  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 77511

The doctor wanted to know why my son was not up to date on his shots. And I told her that I had a religious objection to vaccinations. **She proceeded to tell me that CPS might come take my kids from me for neglect.** I said no, I have completed a religious objection form. She said that it did not matter it was against the law. And then she wanted to know what religion I was talking about. I told her and she said she was just wondering what kind of religion would not want you to protect your child.

**Said that CPS might take my children from me.**

Health professionals are not even educated on our laws and that they try to intimidate people to follow their beliefs.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Pediatric Care of Austin  
 HarassmentNames: Dr. Rodolpho Barrera  
 HarassmentCity: Austin  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 78705

I chose a doctor through our insurance and went in for 2 month check-up. I expressed my desire to wait on vaccinations because of research that I had done and concerns that I had. I was immediately faced with a hostile attitude and was discredited and told "a little knowledge is dangerous". He went on to say the worst reactions he has had has been 105 deg. fevers and since he has gone to a more expensive brand of vaccine he has not had those reactions. **He went on to try to intimidate me by saying that he believed my refusal to vaccinate "was abuse". My mind was made up prior to the appointment that I was not going to vaccinate that day but I did leave the office fearing that he was going to call CPS.** And I'm sure that was his intent. And the part that surprised me was that I merely said I wanted to WAIT on the shots, I never said I intended to refuse altogether. I was informed on my own and confident enough to make this decision but what about all the parents out there that don't know any better. What about the ones who blindly trust their doctors for advice on what's best for their child. He said he was my child's advocate but clearly was not. **Doctors are supposed to be sources of support and information, not people who use their position to intimidate and pressure parents into making uninformed decisions that could injure their child.**

I had already made up my mind to change doctors, but he insisted I do so.

This has reaffirmed my belief that the vaccination program has become more about control and politics than about true protection of our health.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Texas Children's Hospital Emergency Department  
 HarassmentNames: Dr. Peter Jung  
 HarassmentCity: Houston  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 77030

On May 31st (our 17th anniversary), our two year old daughter startled the family dog as she slept and was bitten. As soon as we realized stitches would be required, we rushed her the several blocks to the closest emergency room. It was 10:30 at night. By midnight, it had been decided that we would be transferred to Texas Children's Hospital, as the bite, though small, was on the face. They had no plastic surgeon on call at Bayshore, and felt the work should be done by one.

My daughter and I were transferred by ambulance (despite our offer to drive ourselves, we were told it had to be done that way) and my husband remained behind with our son. He had to take care of things at home, such as making arrangements for relatives to take our son for a while, filling in for me on my early morning paper route, and taking the dog to the pound the next morning for the obligatory 10 days of impound as ordered.

Once at the hospital, we were placed in an examination room to await the surgeon. My daughter was not in any obvious distress, just curious and into everything like any other toddler in a new place. I was feeling terribly dehydrated, and had a bottle of water in my backpack, but I didn't want to drink in front of her. She was not allowed any food or drink until after the surgery.(which ended up not happening until around 7 a.m. the next morning! I have wondered if the reason for the delay had to do with her vaccination status and my refusal to allow vaccination; if that doctor simply held us in that examination room for 7 hrs so he could wear me down.)

Before very long, a resident (later identified as Peter Jung by my examination of the medical records and a call to the staffing department at TCH) came in, and looking over our information, questioned me regarding her vaccination status. I told him, "We don't vaccinate." When asked why, I told him we didn't believe in it, and had made an educated decision not to, and had used a religious exemption when necessary in the past.

**We spent the next seven hours in that room, and this resident returned no fewer than five times to interrogate and pressure me regarding my child's vaccination status.** It may have been more times; I was not making notes and was sleep deprived, starving, thirsty, isolated (the phone in the room was not working), stressed, and dealing with a restless, injured toddler. Each time he asked, I repeated my decision clearly.

At one point, he entered the room and said, "So, she's NEVER had any immunizations?"

"No," I replied.

"Well, she'll be getting some before she leaves here today."

"Uh, NO, she won't," I said.

"Well, legally, as the presiding physician..."

I interrupted. "Look, I KNOW the law. I have the right to make the decision. My children are on a religious exemption in Oregon. I would be more than happy to file an affidavit to that effect here."

He glared at me, then left in a huff. After he had gone, I muttered to the nurse in the room, "He needs to back off. I have the right to refuse."  
"Yes, you're right," she said.

The next time he came back, he had switched his focus from fully vaccinating my daughter to the tetanus vaccine. I questioned the need for the vaccine (which I know is intended to offer only long term immunity, which is useless in an emergency situation, as opposed to the short term immunity supposedly conferred by the immuno-globulin). I suggested she could be given the immune-globulin only if that was considered required, but that I preferred neither, esp. as her injury was shallow and freely bleeding, and presented little if any risk of a tetanus infection. He argued the point, insisting she had to have both. I told him I would discuss it with my husband when I spoke with him. He said okay and left.

He returned shortly with a book, showing me the standard procedure for animal bites (both the immuno and the vaccine.) I said, fine. I will decide with my husband when he gets here. He then proceeded to interrogate me intently regarding my religious beliefs, which I found highly offensive. When I refused to back down, he left, his frustration obvious.

The last time he returned, he said, "Look, she has to get the tetanus shots." **While he never said it in so many words, the threat of CPS involvement was clear. While I doubted he had the legal right to take such measures, I KNEW he had no legal right to do what he was already doing, so was unsure if the law would stop him or not.**

My husband still had not arrived, and I was feeling totally isolated and vulnerable by this time. This doctor took full advantage of the fact, pushing me to "consent" before I had support with me, despite the fact that in the case of the tetanus vaccine, there is absolutely no need for such immediate injection; the vaccine takes days to take effect.

I was afraid to leave my daughter alone to call him or for any other reason, for fear this doctor would take the opportunity to vaccinate her without my consent. I was exhausted and weakened by hours of waiting and defending my rights against frequent assaults.  
I finally said, "Go ahead. You will anyway." That was the extent of my "informed consent", submission under coercion and against my will, but it was enough for him.

I felt I had no choice in the matter, other than picking up my child and walking out, and possibly not even that. We supposedly have the right to leave a hospital of our own free will, after signing off on the possible consequences, but then, we also supposedly have the right to make an informed decision regarding vaccination. Had she already gotten the care she needed, I might have left with her, even knowing I would likely have been inviting further harassment. As it was, I was in a position where I felt I had no option but to submit to whatever this doctor intended to do in order to get her injury treated.

**Further, I was afraid that he would eventually resort to removing her from my custody temporarily, which would most likely have resulted in her being fully vaccinated against my will.**

The whole experience was traumatic and left me feeling violated and assaulted. I felt as if I had been unable to protect my child from something I knew to be not in her best interests, and it left me feeling incompetent, helpless, and furious.

Our rights were ignored, state law and the guidelines of the institution were violated (as I was later assured by the head of the Emergency Department, Dr. Joan Shook, whom I contacted by phone to file a formal complaint against this doctor), and my perfectly healthy child was exposed to the risks of procedures (DT vaccination and immunoglobulin, both of which can rarely have serious or fatal side effects) I had not chosen to expose her to.

I was never informed the "tetanus" vaccine they gave her contained Diphtheria vaccine also (I discovered this fact from her records). Her brother, at the age of 2 mths, had suffered a severe reaction to the DPT

vaccine, involving several hours of convulsions and high-pitched screaming, and I thought, "what if they had given her DTaP instead (which contains tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) without telling me? What if she had reacted to the pertussis component as her brother had?"

It took me several months to recover from the emotional effects of this experience, and my trust in hospitals and doctors may never recover. I will certainly be more prepared to defend our rights in the future when entering any such institution, and will never do so without another support person (and a legal advisor's number in my purse!)

I am still of the same view regarding the procedure. What has changed is my degree of determination to never allow such a thing to happen again. I feel even more strongly now that it is imperative for the right of parents to decide what, if any, non-lifesaving medical procedures their children will receive. If such a thing can happen to me, one who has educated herself for over a decade on the issue and feels so strongly about it, it can happen to anyone!

I agree with Gov. Rick Perry that Texas parents should have a "conscientious exemption" to vaccination, as well as religious and medical exemptions. The choice must be left up to the parents, not sometimes over-zealous doctors, nurses, and state officials. We should not have to "jump through hoops" set up to impede our freedom in this regard.

Measures like this one, which would require the unauthorized release and compilation of our children's medical records, and compile the names of those who refuse to allow their children to be added to the main database to another database of "non-consentors", can and will be used to coerce and harass Texas parents in their exercise of their legal right to freely decide regarding vaccination. This is unacceptable and UnAmerican. If we do not establish and protect our basic right to decide what, if anything, is injected into our own children, what rights DO we really have?

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HarassmentCategory: School  
 HarassmentCompany: McWharter Elementary  
 HarassmentCity: Dallas

When I first tried to enroll my son into Kindergarten it was a big mess. My son has not had the chicken pox vaccine and I thought that to be my choice as a parent to make whether he had it or not. When I went to enroll him they told me he could not be enrolled until he had that vaccine, period. I explained to them I did not want him to have it and they said too bad it's the law and any GOOD parent would have already had it done. I was appalled that one, I didn't have a choice, and two the people who worked at the school my son was about to attend were criticizing me and basically telling me I was a bad parent. **I tried contacting the superintendent of that school district but everyone I talked to said too bad, and on top of that if I didn't enroll him into school I would be faced with federal charges and CPS would be called. So either I had to vaccinate him with this vaccine I was against or get charged and CPS called because he wasn't in school.** I continued to do research and found the vaccine exemption list for medical or religious reasons. It was listed in the student handbook they handed out at registration. No one had ever mentioned it to me. I talked to the school about it again and again was given a hard time and they told me only a doctor or an actually church official could sign an exemption to make it valid. Again I read the handbook, finally I filled out a letter and had it notarized and took it to the school along with the handbook (3 days before school started) according to the handbook I do not have to mention the name of a religion and I can fill out a letter myself. I pointed this out to them, again I was told it would be easier if I just had gotten the vaccine, and parents like me made THEIR jobs difficult. Needless to say they did enroll him into school, but both him and I were treated differently and I constantly received letters from the school about the "benefits of vaccination."

**My son almost missed being enrolled into school, and I was threatened with federal charges and CPS being called.** Although none of that happened because I figured out the actual law at the last minute, many parents may not and may be forced to immunize against what they believe is right or want to do, or may have the alternative happen to them. Also being told you are a bad parent by the people

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who are supposed to teach your child, all because you don't want to give them a vaccination is not something people should have to deal with.

Because of this experience I did vaccine research. I have chosen not to give any immunization to my other children and will fight for the right to do just that. Regardless of whether you are pro vaccine or anti vaccine or somewhere in the middle, parents should have the right to chose, parents should be in control of their children. Granted there are parents out there who aren't the best but the vast majority of us are not stupid, abusive or otherwise. We should have the ability to decide what we believe is best to our child within reason, and parents who were in the situation I was in should know there is something they can do, they are not helpless and the state/government isn't the parent of their child no matter how much they try to pretend they are.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Columbia Hospital ER  
 HarassmentNames: Charles O'Hearn  
 HarassmentCity: Lewisville  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 75067

My son who was 11-12 months old at the time of incident suffered a febrile seizure. He was transported via ambulance to the hospital. The nurse recorded his temperature wrong (she took an anal temperature and added to it rather than subtracting - making it appear higher). The doctor and staff then insisted on a spinal tap. We relented out of the fear they threatened us with. All tests run were normal and it was determined he had a virus and febrile seizure. **(His pediatrician later asked about a family history - which was present). The doctor on duty threatened that if immunizations were not given to my child within 3 months he would turn me in to CPS for an investigation. I did not want my children vaccinated and told him my concerns. He stated regardless of my concerns it was state law and if both my children were not given their shots within the stated time frame, he would turn me in to CPS and my children may be taken away from me. Out of fear, my husband and I relented and immunized both our children without believing or supporting the need for immunizations. Dr. O'Hearn no longer works for the hospital and now is in private practice as owner of a free-standing emergency clinic off of Old Denton Road in Coppell, TX.**

We suffered emotional distress and our children were immunized against our wishes or beliefs.

This experience has made me a stronger advocate against immunizations and harassment.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Presbyterian Plano Hospital  
 HarassmentNames: Assigned ER nurse  
 HarassmentCity: Plano  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 75070

My young toddler son hurt his elbow during a lunch playgroup. After a brief nap he was still in obvious discomfort so I took him to the nearest hospital which was Plano Presby. Initially the older nurse who came to room was polite and relaxed. During the consultation she discovered my toddler was not vaccinated (due to a siblings reaction) and she immediately became threatening and rude. **She told me that what I was doing was illegal and that she could call CPS if she wanted, as well as how negligent I was and described all these horrible things that would happen to my child.** Then she began questioning me aggressively about my son's arm injury, insinuating that I had injured him myself. I remained very calm because I could see that she was looking for a reason to cause trouble. She left the room for the remainder of the time while the doctor visited us. **During that time, I was worried that**

**authorities would show up at any minute and somehow take my toddler away right there in the hospital.** This was very stressful for me since he was still breastfeeding and separation was frightening to him. On top of that my preschooler was with a playgroup friend so that he didn't have to come and be exposed to the sick people sitting around. If I became delayed he would become worried and scared as well, especially since he was in a new environment.

Finally, the elbow issue was resolved and it was time for us to go. Once again, the nurse came in to discharge us. **She remained abrasive and told me that I better not tell my neighbors we didn't vaccinate because they could report me to CPS as well.** Then she again inferred that my son's injury wasn't an accident by telling me "don't yank your child's arm anymore!". At that point I told her I did nothing to my son and that I had several witnesses to the event and walked out the door. For several weeks I was concerned that she might follow up on her threat of reporting our shot status.

This experience was very distressing. During that time period I was having numerous health problems, including a heart arrhythmia and elevated cardiac enzymes that the DR could not diagnose the cause. To be treated so poorly by hospital staff not only was bad for my health during that time, it also increased a growing distrust of the medical profession in general. In fact, I no longer take my children to well visits for fear I will be treated that way again. It's just by chance that shots haven't come up with our pediatrician. I know a doctor in the same practice refuses to see unvaccinated children. Every time we need a sick visit to the doctor or urgent care I experience panic attacks at the potential confrontation that will take place. To me that treatment is bully behavior and I refuse to be treated that way by anyone.

To think that the vaccine registry will increase my chances for being antagonized or persecuted is unacceptable. Choosing not to vaccinate is not neglect. I'm a very good parent because I work hard at it! I'm an educated parent and am giving them the things I believe are best for their overall development- mind, body and soul. That is my right and to have TDH keep track of us without good reason is wrong.

A bigger health issue would be giving breastfeeding equal or more attention and money than immunizations. I'd like to see TDH tackle the pitiful breastfeeding rates at 3-6-9 months. How would bottle feeding mothers like to be on a list of "not breastfeeding"? I think that would be a great way to pressure more families to breastfeed. And why not, breastfeeding is a health issue that is 100 times more important than where Texas falls in the rankings for shots.

## Doctors (or Nurses)

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Medical City of Dallas  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Kazami  
HarassmentCity: Dallas  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 75201

My wife took in our son for his three (3) month check up. He had just gotten over an ear infection and a ten (10) day round of antibiotics. Our pediatrician noticed that our son had not had his two (2) month shots and demanded that he be brought up to date. My wife mentioned that he had just gotten off antibiotics and that she and her husband felt it best to wait a while before catching up. Dr. Kazami called my wife a "bad mother" and told her that she had never seen anything but minor symptoms from her patients that had received vaccines in the past. She guilt tripped my wife into accepting her demands.

My son died approximately 19 hours later of respiratory and heart failure.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Plano Pediatrics  
HarassmentNames: Russell R. McDonald  
HarassmentCity: Plano  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 75074

My husband and I, while pregnant with our first child, began researching both the benefits and disadvantages of immunizations. After thorough research, we concluded that immunizations were hazardous to our child and actually impaired the natural immune system. In our initial conversation with Dr. McDonald, he expressed that he did not support our position but did respect it and was therefore willing to work with us. Cade was born on March 15, 2003. At Cade's four-month check-up, Dr. McDonald informed us that we would need to find another pediatrician. He told us that he and his partner had decided that by continuing to see patients who were not immunized that they were in fact, supporting that not immunizing was ok. Since they did not believe that it was ok, we would either have to have Cade immunized or seek care elsewhere. I returned to Dr. McDonald's office a month later with a notarized exemption, exempting Cade from immunization on religious grounds. This is one of two exemptions accepted by the state of Texas. Dr. McDonald informed me that he would not accept the exemption and that I would have to find another pediatrician. I asked if he did not consider the refusal of my exemption as religious discrimination. He stated that he did not, because he would unilaterally refuse services to anyone who would not immunize whether they were Catholic, atheist or agnostic.

As a result of Dr. McDonald's actions, our family was forced to find another pediatrician. We were refused by many offices before we were able to locate a physician who would accept our exemption. This caused us tremendous emotional distress. During the time we were without a pediatrician we were very upset at the prospect of having to immunize our child against our beliefs so that he would have the benefit of routine medical treatment. I believe that only someone who is being forced to do something which they believe is physically damaging to their child could fully understand the emotional distress we suffered.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentNames: Michael Kellum, M.D.

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HarassmentCity: Allen  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 75002

While updating some of our children's vaccinations at Dr. Kellum's office, my wife, Jennie, specifically requested certain vaccines (e.g. dead vs. live) and opted not to receive the chicken pox vaccine and Hepatitis B. Dr. Kellum informed her that their office could not treat patients who did not receive all of the recommended vaccinations according to the recommended schedule (not sure which one he was referencing). My wife pointed out that these recommendations are updated frequently and he reiterated that we would be expected to abide by the current recommendation in order to continue receiving treatment for our children. That was our last visit to the group where he practiced.

Dr. Kellum was firm, but nice. He emphasized that we would not be welcome without following his recommendations fully, particularly with respect to vaccinations. We were forced to seek other care.

This strengthened our resolve to understand the risks associated with immunizations because it became clear to us that medical practitioners do not. This particular doctor was insistent that we follow the recommendations of an organization that publishes an immunization chart and that we do so without question. In contrast to this ignorant following, we strive to be informed about any and all practices, procedures, drugs, etc. that pose a risk to our children and to ourselves. We were also reminded of the control that the medical community seeks to exercise over our medical treatment as opposed to consultation, recommendations, warnings about risks associated treatments or drugs, etc. We are insistent that the decisions regarding the care of our children is ours alone, unless we specifically delegate that responsibility.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: New Braunfels Pediatrics  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Owens  
HarassmentCity: New Braunfels  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 78130

When we took our second daughter in for her 2 month check up the nurse gave us the sheets for the immunizations. We informed her that we were not going to be giving our daughter any shots that day. She told us that she would speak to the Doctor about it. She said it was not "wise" to refuse the immunizations. Then the Doctor came in and questioned us about our reasons why we didn't allow the shots. When we told him our reasons, he said that they were not valid and we were going to be responsible for the harm to our daughter if she were to get sick.

The Doctors and Nurses at the Pediatric office were very short with us and made it very clear that they thought we were very bad parents for refusing the shots. They question us any time we go into the office and make us feel like we are not doing our best.

I strongly believe that I am protecting my children from harm by not immunizing. This experience only made us more determined to protect our children at all costs.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Khozema Palanpurwala  
HarassmentCity: Tomball  
HarassmentState: Texas

I told Dr. Palanpurwala's nurse before seeing him that I did not want vaccines at my daughter's 4 year old well visit and was in the process of studying and researching the harmful and permanent side effects of

receiving unnecessary, but required vaccinations. He told me that, "he could not make me receive them, however he did say that he would not continue to see our family if we would not consent to his office giving us vaccinations". He became agitated and made it clear that we would not be welcome if we continued to deny vaccinations.

He then proceeded to lecture me (as if I was the child) about diseases in other countries and how important it is to make sure my children did not receive or spread these diseases.

I asked him if he had done any research or read any current info on harmful vaccine injury and he angrily denied such cases.

Upon leaving his office, I made up my mind to not return and find another doctor due to the fact that he seemed to belittle me and clearly treated me as an ignorant and uneducated mother. I had two Master's degrees and am fully aware that it is the goal of pharmaceutical companies and doctors to make parents think they must, by law, inject their children with dozens of vaccines and that they are neglectful or very bad parents if they do not heed this requirement. It is hard to deny the growing number of autism cases and other cases of permanent damage to the nervous system, behavior and brain where a vaccine was clearly or most likely the cause. I don't appreciate being treated like a rebel, when I want simply to do what is best for my family with an informed decision.

This has just made me see that anything in life that is "right" is not popular. The masses will always follow blindly and give into fear and this is another thing where it is going to be the unpopular thing to go up against big powerful pharmaceutical companies who have their bottom line monetary interest over what is best for the overall health for a person. I will not give into fear or just immunize because "everyone is doing it". All my friends who vaccinate their children do it simply b/c their doctor tells them to and they don't want to look at the facts of all sides. I just started looking at this issue for the first time about 10 months ago and I am determined to keep my kids healthy and protect them from unnecessary poison and toxins.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Diagnostic Clinic of Longview  
HarassmentNames: Dr. O .W. Brown  
HarassmentCity: Longview  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 75605

I believed my 3rd child had a reaction to her 9 mo. immunizations. My pediatrician disagreed. My daughter had chronic ear infections for about eight months with the doctor prescribing antibiotic after antibiotic. My daughter did not improve and was in constant pain. I looked into alternative treatments and informed the doctor of my frustration. When I questioned him about immunizations causing her ear infections (she had no health problems prior to her 9 mo. shots) he became defensive. He was condescending and was insulted that I questioned immunizations. My husband and I chose not to immunize our fourth child based on the research we had done about immunizations. When we refused the shots at the hospital, Dr. Brown said that he did not encourage parents to refuse immunizations. He basically told us we would need to find a new pediatrician if we did not immunize our children. He also said that we could call the other pediatricians at the Diagnostic Clinic, but it too, was their policy to accept only immunized patients.

We had to find a pediatrician that would accept our children that weren't immunized. I have not immunized my children since my daughter's reaction to her 9 mo. shots. I am opposed to immunizations. I encourage my friends and family to inform themselves before undertaking immunizations.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor

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HarassmentCompany: Diagnostic Clinic of Longview  
 HarassmentNames: Drs. Brown, Clark and Roberts  
 HarassmentCity: Longview  
 HarassmentState: TX

Each doctor refused to accept my children as patients because they were not vaccinated. Although one of the doctors (I can't recall whether it was Brown or Clark) was willing to talk to me at length and concluded that I, in fact, was quite knowledgeable on the subject of vaccinations, he still refused to accept my children as patients.

I was unable to take my baby that was born a few months later in for well-baby exams. Fortunately, none of my children had medical problems or we would have had to depend on the emergency room for care.

I still believe that my children are healthier because they are not vaccinated. They have none of the chronic illnesses common to children today and acute illnesses are few and far between. If I were ever forced to vaccinate my children, it would be the same to me as if the government forced me to put a gun to their heads. How a doctor can refuse care to a small child is beyond me. I'm fully aware of the propaganda and pressures used to get doctors to vaccinate all patients, but I don't see how any doctor could refuse to fulfill his oath, i.e., give medical care to those in need and to do no harm.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Town & Country Pediatrics  
 HarassmentNames: Stanley Spinner  
 HarassmentCity: Houston  
 HarassmentState: Texas

When my daughter was two months old, I took her to this doctor's office for her well-baby checkup. After arriving, we were sent to a room to wait. A nurse came in and weighed and measured my daughter. I noticed the vaccination schedule on the wall and asked her if she believed that all these shots so close together were good for the children. She said she did not believe so, but asked me NOT to tell the doctor what her opinion was because she would get into serious trouble. I told her that I DID NOT want my daughter to receive any shots today. The doctor came in and after a two minute look at her, said that the nurse told him that I was refusing all of the shots scheduled for that day. I told him that yes I was refusing them and I just wanted him to examine her growth and development. He asked me why, but I again said "I do not want her to have them". I asked him some questions since I was a new mother, but some of his responses did not help me. He also would not give me vital information pertaining to the shots and her future growth. He only made every effort verbally to make me feel like I was endangering my child. He proceeded to tell me that if I did not vaccinate her in full, that he would not offer care to her because she was a health liability. When I questioned his opinion, he said that she could start and spread an epidemic in his office. I asked him that if the shots were so effective, how could she? It would be impossible if the shots gave protection to his patients in the office. He did not give me any written information about the shots, did not speak with me about other aspects of motherhood such as breastfeeding, and said he would not offer care to her and told us to leave his office. All this doctor did was to try to frighten me into doing something I was against by threatening pediatric care, my instinct as a new mother and a lack of education for my child. He also threatened to report me for child abuse/negligence. Three years later, I am pleased that he chose to end our relationship.

The doctor threatened to report me for child abuse/negligence and threw us out of his office by refusing to offer her pediatric care.

Recently, I have also been in a difference of opinion and views with my in-laws. My sister in law has proceeded to tell me that our lack of vaccination to our daughter is considered child negligence. She also had the audacity to tell me that my healthy daughter was a disease carrier and that I would go to jail for a lack of an education for my daughter. She did the exact same thing the doctor did. ( I should point out

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that Dr. Spinner is my sister-in-law's pediatrician). Unfortunately, My in-laws do not respect our family's choices and feel that they have the right to interfere and that has caused a great deal of stress and tension. At this time, they do not have any relationship with me (nor my daughter) and barely my husband.

I have become extremely educated and informed on the risks of the vaccines and diseases by doing my own research. Not one person in the medical profession has done anything to ease my concerns, inform me or work with our wishes. We have only been threatened and intimidated by their lack of time and interest in the education of a topic that is very controversial for every family. I saw this doctor's irritation, anger and indifference with regards to helping me make an informed decision. It was either his way or the highway and he used my daughter the bait. This makes me very upset. I do not believe that these shots are "immunizations". I breastfed her for one year, and am being very careful of the things that affect her.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentOther: vaccine records  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Goron Hill  
HarassmentCity: San Antonio  
HarassmentState: Tx  
HarassmentZip: 78209

Being young and inexperienced first time mother at the time, I took my daughter as scheduled to get her check ups and vaccines. It was a few years later, when she entered school that I noticed the doctor only recorded the maker and lot number on the first inoculation. After that, the doctor didn't even make the time or effort to write it down. Perhaps this is an example of poor record keeping or could it be considered irresponsible?

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentNames: T. P. T.  
HarassmentCity: Brownsville  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 78521

Refused to render care to our one week newborn due to our refusal of all injections. This occurred after we had talked to him prior to our daughter's birth and made it known that we did not and would not allow our children to be vaccinated. We were given the blood and guts horror story of not vaccinating but were told he would treat our child regardless. When we went for the well child checkup at ten days treatment was refused. We were told by staff personnel that Dr. Thurber would only render care if we consented to all vaccinations. We walked out of the clinic and sought treatment elsewhere. We then proceeded to call every pediatric doctor in town to see if they would render care and were refused by all but one.

Dr. Yogesh Trakru stated he would see our daughter because she needed to have her initial post birth evaluation. He rendered care this first visit but refused further treatment due to our decision not to consent to treatment. Neither doctor could tell me what was in the vaccine and both refused to accept liability for any injuries that may occur as a result of vaccination.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Texas Children's Pediatric Assoc.  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Caryn Cohan  
HarassmentCity: Houston  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 77081

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When I asked Dr. Caryn what she thought about parents that do not vaccinate their children she replied, "I think it should be criminal." Later in the conversation she stated that if we decided not to vaccinate our child that she was sorry, but she would not be able to see us as patients any more.

I have been going to this doctor for about 10 years and now will not be able to take my children back because she does not want to treat them if I am not willing to unquestioningly do as she says regarding vaccinations.

It totally shocked me that a doctor I had trusted and taken my children to for 10 years would not give the benefit of making what I felt was the best choice for them, and would refuse to treat my family if I did not go with the general public and blindly do with no regard to what may be in my child's best interest.

In this same office, another child of mine was given the MMR vaccine even though this child has a border-line severe allergy to raw eggs. My child reacts to even the touch of eggs on the skin. As for a reaction to the vaccine, I am not sure, but this child has a few health problems that my other children do not have.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentNames: Dr. Daniel Hanby  
 HarassmentCity: Houston  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 77055

Because there was some question as to whether my son had been born with a neurological problem, I refused all vaccinations for the first year. Dr. Hanby yelled at me saying that I shouldn't come running to him when my child trips on a drug dealers needle and gets Hepatitis B.

I only made appointments with his partner Dr. Luella Guzman, who gently continued to pressure me to vaccinate my child--even as she was conducting follow-up examinations on my son's hypotonia. When I finally did vaccinate my son at 1 year of age, he reacted badly to the DTaP (103 fever, diarrhea, vomiting) in the 2nd round of shots. About 3 months after that was when we began to notice the first arm flapping and tantrums that eventually came to be diagnosed as autism. There is no doubt in my mind that the DTaP shot contributed significantly to my son's development of autism. That we waited a year before he had any shots is the only reason why he only developed a mild rather than a severe case.

At no time did any doctor EVER tell me that immunizations could worsen or put my child at risk for developing neurological conditions. When I told the doctor that immunizations were contraindicated for my son, then all except Dr. Hanby, would pause, agree, and drop the subject. The legislature must understand that doctors are VERY POORLY trained to properly screen at risk kids.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Dr. John Champion - Pediatric  
 HarassmentNames: Dr. Champion  
 HarassmentCity: Fort Worth  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 76104

At 16 months of age our son had severe dental caries and needed to have oral surgery. We went in to see Dr. Champion, our then pediatrician, for a pre-surgery check-up. He was so incensed when I questioned him about thimerosal in the vaccines he was recommending, that he berated me for my ignorance, and said that heaven help me if I were to ever poison my child by giving him tuna (which is

one of the safest cold-water fish for consumption, actually). I was so appalled, shocked and hurt at his behavior that I couldn't even respond to his ignorance.

He refused to give me the drug fact sheets for the vaccines his nurse administered, even though they swore they were thimerosal free and that they were going to get me the sheets before I left the office that day. I was not able to get them, and his has refused to answer our repeated medical record release forms from our current pediatrician.

I know absolutely now that some doctors have a desire to use a particular brand of vaccine, that defies logic or the request for consumer information.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: South Austin Pediatrics  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Peter Hine  
HarassmentCity: Austin  
HarassmentState: Texas

My grandson was given a combination vaccination shot by Dr. Hine without the doctor advising the parents of my grandson of possible risks and reactions from these immunizations.

My grandson, now age 8, was a normal little boy for the first 2 to 3 years of his life. He was beginning to verbalize in a normal way saying such words as "mama", "dadda" and "papa". All of a sudden he became quiet and would not talk or attempt to say any words. He was diagnosed with autism. All this began after my grandson had received the combination immunization shots. Now six years later, he has a very limited vocabulary of words that he can verbalize. My grandson will never be a normal child and will never have a chance to live a normal life.

I would advise any parent with small children to elect not to receive any immunization shots. In light of what has happened to my grandson with autism, I would rather chance not contracting the diseases for which the immunizations were given over the possibility of having an autistic child that will suffer the rest of one's life. I believe there is a direct link between autism and the combination immunization shots.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: The Pediatric Clinic  
HarassmentNames: Patrice A Patterson  
HarassmentCity: Greenville  
HarassmentState: TX

My children had just qualified for Medicaid benefits. I was sent a HMO enrollment package by TX Dept of Human Services to select one of three HMO programs and a primary care provider immediately. Based on where we live, selection of an HMO is mandatory. Comparing the three programs, the only pediatric primary care option is a group of four physicians who share an office and office staff. I was told by Dr. Patterson's nurse, that this doctor was currently accepting new Medicaid patients. The first available new patient appointment was three months away and a particular date and time was discussed. Since the office is a 35 mile round trip from our rural home, I decided to mention that we have religious objections to vaccines. The nurse placed me on hold and a moment later returned to inform me she would not be able to make an appointment for my children as the doctor refused to treat patients who did not submit to vaccination. The next closest pediatrician is over a 100 mile trip, which we felt excessive.

We enrolled in the public health clinic as a last option. The general practice doctor at this clinic referred 3 of the children to specialists (115 mile round trip). We have lost over 10 days of work/school time, well over 1000 miles on our family vehicle in the year that followed visiting these specialists for follow up care. (I am sure this has cost Medicaid a small fortune as well.)

I believe that reluctant providers would just as soon discriminate and refuse services if possible. The public health clinic, though willing to accept them as patients, was quick to pass their care onto other sources.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentNames: Donna B. Baker, MD  
HarassmentCity: Arlington  
HarassmentState: Texas

My first "vaccine encounter" happened at our former family doctor's office (Dr. Donna B. Baker; Arlington, Texas) on Friday, June 29, 2001. Our son was four months old and we had delayed his vaccinations because he was injured when he was born and spent a week in NICU.

Dr. Baker came in and said it was time for his vaccinations to begin and we told her we wanted to ask a few questions first. She said okay but did not sit down. We asked her if they were dangerous, she said no. We asked her if it was true that the Rubella vaccine had been developed using aborted fetal tissue, she said no. We then asked her if she had any information about vaccines, she said yes. She left and a nurse came back with two sheets of paper. They were information sheets on two different vaccines and had been photocopied multiple times. Information was missing along the sides of the document and they were so blurry they were virtually unreadable. Dr. Baker came back a few minutes later and said that she was ready to begin. We told her that we wanted to think about it and do more research. She told us to check out the Centers for Disease Control website because it would explain everything she had just told us in greater detail.

When I got home, I did check out the CDC website and it most definitely explained everything she had just "told" us. According to the CDC website, "Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are information sheets produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that explain to vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives both the benefits and risks of a vaccine. Federal law requires that VISs be handed out whenever (before each dose) certain vaccinations are given."

1. We were not given Vaccine Information Statements, we had to ask for them. According to the CDC, this is a violation of Federal Law.
2. We were not given VIS's on ALL of the vaccines that our son was to be given and the two VIS's that we did receive were unreadable. According to the CDC, this is also a violation of Federal Law.
3. We were not given current VIS's. The badly copied VIS's we received were out of date and contained different information than the VIS's for the same vaccines on the CDC website.
4. We were given a total of three minutes to read the badly copied and incomplete VIS's.
5. We were not told which vaccines my son was to be given or any of the possible side effects.
6. We were lied to about the origin of the Rubella vaccine, it was developed using aborted fetal tissue and according to an article on the CDC website, "It is quite reasonable for Catholics to hold differing views about the question of rubella vaccination for children. Those who feel that they want to take a prophetic stand against accepting any benefit which results from an abortion are entitled to do so, and to refuse consent for their children to receive the rubella vaccination."

I asked the three mom's in my play group if they had ever heard of VISs. Not one of them had been given VISs by their family doctors when their children were vaccinated. They hadn't even heard of them.

We definitely had some emotional distress from this. My husband and I couldn't wait to get out of that office. The staff's pace and attitude was that of people trying to get you to hurry up and buy a used car before you figure out that its a lemon.

Our experience with Dr. Baker and the CDC website answered our questions and turned our doubts into fears. We will not be giving any vaccinations to our children.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: St. David's Hospital  
 HarassmentCity: Austin  
 HarassmentState: TX

I refused the HepB vaccine in the hospital when I delivered my twins. My previous experiences had prepared me to always be "on guard" when going against the norm. When I signed my papers for treatment, etc. I declined the HepB vaccine. I was prepared to be confronted and rather than fueling the controversy and stating my outward refusal, I simply responded by explaining that I would be following up with my babies' doctor in his office for all vaccinations. I felt like my explanation was sufficient and was accepted hesitantly by the nurse. I was in the hospital for less than 48 hours and was questioned and pressured at least 4-5 different times by different nurses regarding the HepB vaccination. I remained pleasant and reassured each nurse that I would follow up with my babies' doctor in his office. I had to exaggerate my intentions so that I could leave the hospital with minimal harassment and pressure. I have no doubt that if I had stated I had no intention of vaccinating the situation would have been a lot worse.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Pediatrics Associates of Dallas  
 HarassmentNames: Dr. Patricia Ashley and associates thereof  
 HarassmentCity: Dallas  
 HarassmentState: Texas

Our pediatrician put our concerns off for months. They NEVER gave us any VIS statements and whenever I asked about the risks, all they said was "redness at the site and slight fever." When my son was two, another facility suggested autism to us. The pediatrician admitted to me that all the DTap, Hib, Hep B, and Prevnar shots he had received from two months to fifteen months had contained thimerosal. We requested mercury intoxication testing and were treated so abominably that we had to leave that office and seek help elsewhere. What they did was try to make it so uncomfortable for us. We were not allowed to wait in the waiting room where my son could play while I filled out forms. I had to try to control him and fill out the forms. when I asked if I could go into the enclosed waiting room they told me no. They also kept telling us that we had to go to the other office for the test. They sent us back and forth several times, each office saying it was the other office where we needed to be. The two offices are a building apart and floors apart. As well, at each office they kept third degreeing me as to why I wanted the test. I said, "it doesn't matter why. The doctor ordered it, so you need to do it." Then after four hours they told me we didn't have enough urine to do the test and would have to start the process all over, but that I needed to do back to the other building again. I had had enough. I knew they weren't going to help. They sent us to a pediatric neurologist who wouldn't test for mercury, but he lied about it in a letter telling another doctor that he had ordered the testing. A second **pediatric neurologist we saw after heavy metal testing did give us a diagnosis of heavy metal intoxication, but he said to us, "you just have to understand, by mass-vaccinating children, we are saving so many, but there are going to be losses, and you just have to go home and accept that."**

My son was damaged by thimerosal-containing vaccines. At fifteen months --the day after his vaccinations, he lost the ability to speak and began sinking into autism. Since that time, with much work, he has made progress and is now trying to speak but can only say the first syllable or first two letters of

words. Our son is now three, and still has a lot of sensory, motor, digestive, immunological, and communicative problems.

I don't trust them at all anymore. I don't think I could ever again allow them to inject my child with a vaccine. I have reservations about any injection now. A doctor wants to start him on fire ant allergy shots, but they won't tell me what's in them or let me see the package insert, so I doubt I will allow that either. This has totally changed my opinion of doctors.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Kristi Harvey pediatrician  
HarassmentNames: Kristi Harvey  
HarassmentCity: Round Rock  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 78664

I had taken my daughter Kourtney in for a check-up, and this was not the 1st time she had seen Kourtney, when she was walking between exam rooms her exact words were "not her again." There is no reason for me to even waste my time with her. Meaning previously, when Kourtney was there she asked me about vaccinations and I informed her Kourtney had severe reaction to the MMR and was extremely sick with 104 and 105 fever, lethargic, and eye's were fixated for 3 days. I am aware of my choices in this matter and was told that further vaccination could be worse next time and I was not willing to take that chance. She was very negative to me from that time forward. She also informed me that she was not going to be the only pediatrician in this area with a child with one of these contracted diseases. I should have never taken my child there again, but I felt everyone has their own feelings towards this issue. The last straw was when she belittled me to nurse and other staff where I could hear her. I left the appointment in tears and have never been back. I have found a doctor who is willing to work with kids and myself without further harassment.

I feel as though I have made the right choices for my children. We all reserve the right to protect our children from any harm that might arise, but this treatment by the medical field is completely out of our limits. I am raising my children to respect everyone, love and honor they man and I feel the same should be done to them. I was truly crushed by the disrespect I was given by Kristi Harvey.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Dr. Gordon Hill  
HarassmentCity: San Antonio  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 78209

I would like to say I have two girls 15 1/2 months apart. At the time of their infancy, I took my girls to the doctor as scheduled. They were given vaccinations without ever exposing any risks, ingredients and no information was given to me. I just trusted the doctor. My oldest girl experienced fever and uncontrolled crying for days. I was told for the next shot to administer tylenol ahead of time. They made it sound normal. Now for the past few years she has experienced digestive and excretory problems. My other daughter severe vision problems.

Now 10 years later I had another child(boy). He had another doctor in which after declining to get him vaccinated because I wanted more information(I had been reading about the ingredients and being also concerned with my girls situation) he told me he could not be his doctor unless he was vaccinated that day. I left and never returned. A few weeks later I received a phone call from a lady claiming to be from the health department asking why I hadn't vaccinated him.

Of course it wasn't much longer after that, the industries reformulated the vaccines, leaving out thimerosal(a crystalline organic mercurial).

I have talked with a doctor now that wants to run different tests on my children to see if we can find the problem and see if they have elevated mercury levels. I am so disgusted with my government's thinking that one size fits all. Then the laws have been set up so there is no liability after a couple of years has gone by. I remember reading a single paper given to me on that appointment with my son, "adverse reactions" blurred vision, dizziness, slurred speech, etc". This is ridiculous being a child at that age has no way to tell you and is almost if not impossible for a parent to be able to tell.

Where are the follow ups? Why aren't the vaccine industries disclosing the contents/ingredients and method in which these vaccines are being made? Being a vegetarian, I did not want any animal products, by products or animals being used to produce a vaccine and then being forced to comply.

From my first two children almost 14 and 13 years ago to my 2 year old, the idea that a single paper explaining reactions and a "compensation" program, along with a requirement for me to sign for consent, is the new format and is considered to be enough information. I also wanted to mention the last doctor told me today's vaccines are safer than the previous ones, "they are genetically engineered". Boy, now I feel better. Give me a break! While in his office I read a pamphlet on a vaccine for influenza and with its insert, which no lay person could possibly understand....except one sentence" may cause fertility problems". When I was young I received few vaccines. I had measles, German measles and chicken pox. My older friends received even fewer vaccines but had even more of the childhood diseases and all survived fine, with "true/natural" immunity.

I should be able to reserve the right to decline vaccination, especially now that I have two children with impairments and who will pay for all these tests that need to be run? But more importantly I hope my children will be fine and will be able to grow up healthy and have healthy children.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Pediatrician's offices in Houston, TX  
 HarassmentNames: Houston Pediatric Associates  
 HarassmentCity: Houston  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip:

Not one doctor I ever took my daughter to, ever explained or asked me about family history and how that can impact one's reactions to vaccines. Even after the pediatrician in Atlanta was suspicious of my daughter having seizure activity NEVER once forewarned me about certain vaccines in relation to seizures. My daughter was 3 years old before the doctors could confirm that she had a seizure disorder and by that time she had received FOUR DPT's. After this was confirmed, her pediatrician at Houston Ped. Assoc., then told me that she was not a candidate for the Pertussis vaccine. - unfortunately the damage was already done.

Then in October 1998, 5 months after major brain surgery (for her drop-like seizures), she was due for her MMR. Once again, NO ONE mentioned to me about the relation between the MMR & seizures. The surgery had been successful, however, within one month of receiving her MMR, her seizures started to return more frequently and more severe. In fact, she had only experienced 2 grand mal seizures prior to the surgery and after the surgery within a 2 year period of time, she then experienced 5 grand mal seizures. I never made the connection until I looked at her shot records which I was gathering for a homeopath to treat her. After that discovery I then got the Merck product insert, which clearly states..."due caution should be used in the administration of this vaccine to anyone with an individual OR family history of convulsions or cerebral injury" - OBVIOUSLY the doctor at Houston Ped. Assoc., didn't bother to even read the product inserts.

I am convinced, despite the fact, that we were turned down for any vaccine injury compensation, that my daughter's seizures are a direct result of vaccines she should have never received.

My daughter when born, was normal and making progress until around 6 months of age, when she started to regress, coincidentally by this time she had already been jabbed 3 different times with DPT & polio immunizations. Within 2 weeks after her 2 month shots, she had already come down with her first illness. If I ONLY knew then, what I know now...her high pitched screaming & fever were reactions and had her pediatrician not had such a cavalier attitude that this was a normal reaction - maybe - just maybe the damage could have stopped.

I am now a firm believer that only the parents can make an educated decision on whether their child is a candidate for immunizations, especially with some genetic disorders that could impact that child's reaction. I never tell anyone to not vaccinate, BUT that parent has a right to make educated decisions to delay the vaccines, ask for monovalent vaccines (which MOST pediatrician do not carry and refuse to even order), have the child's titre's conducted to see if the child already has an immunity to that disease, because if they do, there is no sense in giving a child that vaccine, especially since the vaccines are laden with known toxins, such as formaldehyde, aluminum and thimerosal.

I have now dedicated my life to reverse the damage that was done to my child because of the vaccines. Since this treatment which has been successful to a degree, is NOT covered by insurance or Medicaid, so we are left with the financial burden of paying for these therapies. What really upsets me is, that the way the laws are written for the vaccine compensation program, the drug companies are immune to any liability, not to mention how the FDA refuses to even recall those vaccines sitting on doctor's shelves which contain the mercury based preservative, thimerosal. And the drug companies continue to manufacture the flu vaccine & many animal vaccines with thimerosal. I find it ironic that the very government who enforce these laws, will now be left to subsidize my child's future...BUT unfortunately with the current proposed budget cuts for the State of Texas, what little help I do get, will probably become a thing of the past too.

We have a family history of seizures, diabetes, asthma & thyroidism - 3 auto-immune disorders...which obviously compromised my daughter's already delicate immune system when jabbed with the major doses of preservatives in the vaccines. Now I'm left with a 14 year old daughter, who still crawls as a way to ambulate vs. walking, NO speech, NO fine motor skills, NO self-help skills...not to mention her seizure disorder. Luckily with homeopathic detox, she has started to gain some skills - but it will take years to reverse this damage. It has been VERY evident that while antidoting her vaccines, that she DEFINITELY was a product of vaccine damage, but unfortunately, this type of alternative treatment would never hold up in a court of law, but I at least know in my heart how the damage occurred and no one will EVER change my mind about that.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Clinical Pediatric Associates of North Texas  
 HarassmentNames: Physicians Assistant Graham  
 HarassmentCity: Irving  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 75038

We had been seeking a Pediatrician for our son. We took our 2 year old to Mary Askari, a highly recommended Pediatrician in Irving TX, about an ear ache. We were seen by Dr. Askari's PA, last name Graham according to my receipt. At the conclusion of our follow up appointment PA Graham informed me that Dr. Askari would not continue to see my son as a patient if I would not agree to get him vaccinated. I was told that the next appointment needed to be for vaccinations or not to come back.

I was related to as if I were a negligent parent, instead of the person responsible for my son's safety. It changed my direction completely. I had been thinking a long term relationship with a pediatrician would be of real value for my son. I certainly did not expect to be shunned or bullied about vaccinations. Again, we were there for an ear ache. I was stunned to find out they would deny him care.

I was pressured. It was suggested that a good mother WOULD vaccinate her children. Initially, I was just unwilling to subject my children to vaccinations. I walked away from this experience additionally unwilling to subject them to pediatricians.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Capital Pediatric Group  
HarassmentNames: Helen Ma M.D.  
HarassmentCity: Austin  
HarassmentState: TX

We had just moved to Austin. I had a difficult time just getting a doctor to accept a new patient expecting a new baby with the insurance that we had (a major HMO). After days of calls, I found one office that would accept us. After the first visit I was given all kinds of handouts to explain vaccinations to "look over". The information was very one sided and I did more research which led me to question the necessity and safety to a newborn baby. When I came back the next time, the Doctor gave me her "suggestions" that included vaccines that were not required but she felt were important like one for ear infections. She left telling me I could choose when I felt it was good for my infant. The next visit she told me that if I didn't start the schedule of vaccines within two months I needed to find a new physician.

It may seem like an insignificant thing to just be told to find someone else but it was extremely discouraging and brought about a lot of emotional distress especially only having been in this town and state for less than 6 months. I was also struggling with the fact that many offices were not willing to accept our insurance and I had a limited number of offices from which to choose . I have a healthy happy child and just want a doctor who will help me keep my child that way.

I have become more willing to do research on vaccines and everything that is suggested for my child's well being. There seems to be very one sided information coming from the doctors these days on vaccines. For other medical procedures or medicines they are required to give the pros, and cons, then advise you while you make the choice. With vaccines, you are coerced or rebuked while only given half the information, the 'good side' while the contraindications are on the consent form that is given to be signed as they prepare your child for her/his vaccines.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Pediatrician  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Foster  
HarassmentCity: Dallas  
HarassmentState: TX

In the fall of 1996 I received the flu shot. I was eleven years old. I'm nineteen now. In less than twenty four hours I could not pull up my socks from weakness in my hands. From their my symptoms increased - I couldn't write, couldn't walk, couldn't hear, or see. My pediatrician did not believe in vaccine reactions. Because I was only eleven at the time I do not know exactly all that went on since my mother and father were the ones dealing with it all. I just know of stories. When my parents tried to blame my symptoms on the flu shot the doctor basically became mad and ever since has not treated us properly. You may ask why we kept going - we couldn't find anyone else. Then in the fall of 1998 my pediatrician insisted that I receive the hepatitis B series and I needed them for school. My mom was concerned, but we still had no proof except for our own feelings and knowledge that I had reacted to the flu shot. So I receive the hepatitis B series - on the second shot I was in the hospital that night with extreme sensitivity in my legs and the inability to walk. The doctor still gave me my third shot. I stopped going there, because I was fully vaccinated and we found an internist to deal with everyday things. I also found a doctor - Dr. Andrew Campbell in the Houston area - who specialized in these things and who is now considered my physician since we have not been able to find anyone else in Dallas who will believe the vaccine reactions. My brother still needed shots though and so I remember one day my mom took my brother to Dr. Foster. He

was trying to get my brother to take a vaccine - I honestly do not know which one it was - but my mom, because of me, had been doing research on vaccines and what was absolutely needed and what was not, and so my mother refused. The doctor became enraged, walked out, and slammed the door. We have not gone back since then.

We have had an extremely hard time finding a doctor who believes in vaccine reactions. In the beginning of all of this my mom would go meet with doctors to see if they believed in vaccine reactions and if they could take me on as a patient. One of the doctors out right told my mother that he did not believe in vaccine reactions. My mom accepted that and got up to walk out the door. Before she left she asked him why, since on the insert and warnings that come with the vaccines it plainly says that vaccine reactions can happen. He said that he did not read that part and that he ignored that. I know there are good doctors out there, but my experience with doctors has tainted my perception of them and made me suspicious of them. I have good doctors, but I also have now learned that doctors are human too. I think a lot of us get an idealistic view of doctors that they always know what is going on, that they know what to do, and that they are always right in what they say, but now I know that it is all right to question what a doctor is doing and do some research into what they prescribe and what not. When I was eighteen I went with my mom to visit a doctor and see if he would take me on. We went into the examining room, he examined me a little I think, and then we sat and discussed vaccine reactions and everything. He proceeded to basically tell me that I should just forget about vaccine reactions, that I should just move on and forget that I was ever injured by vaccines, basically saying that he thought I had made it all up and that it really wasn't that serious of a problem. I was very polite but inside I was wanting to say some things. Because of all of this I suppose I am kind of skeptic of doctors, but I still know there are good doctors out there, it's just a matter of finding them.

Immunizations are a positive thing, but doctors need to accept that vaccine reactions do occur so that they can keep their patients safe and healthy, since they do take the Hippocratic Oath which says they will protect life and not bring harm to it.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: South Austin Pediatrics  
 HarassmentNames: Dr. Peter Hine  
 HarassmentCity: Austin  
 HarassmentState: Texas

The pediatricians failed to inform us of the potential dangers of immunizations and the risk factors. No family history was taken. If I only knew then what I know now I would have been able to save my son from getting autism. He has been diagnosed with heavy metal poisoning due to childhood vaccinations.

His doctor at the time did not care that he had a strong genetic predisposition to the dangerous affects. There are 4 other boys in the family with autism. As a result, my son today is 8 years old who is non-verbal and struggling to learn the basics of self-help skills such as buttoning his clothes and toileting.

Up until the age of 18-24 months my son was developing beautifully. He was verbally communicating with family members appropriately. I trusted and put faith in this doctor and now my son has paid the ultimate price.

Insurance companies do not adequately provide for all the therapies required of an autistic person. The emotional distress is a daily occurrence, not to mention the financial burden. My son struggles to dress himself, struggles to read, cannot write his name, and cannot tell me his thoughts and feelings. He is the one suffering the most and it breaks my heart.

Unfortunately, it took my child becoming permanently disabled to make me aware of the potential dangers of vaccinations. I strongly believe each child deserves to have a thorough background medical history

taken and considered by a doctor AND the parent to ensure the child's safety. Who will protect the children if HB1921 passes?

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Central Texas Medical Center  
HarassmentNames: A nurse, name unknown

We were treated like any other patient in a emergency room would expect to be treated until they questioned us about shot records. Average attention was reduced to no attention. I do not understand how the lack of any vaccination is a concern for a smashed finger. This is a regular occurrence at any emergency room. With two boys emergency room visits are quite common. We are fine upstanding parents until we tell the "professionals our stance on vaccination. Then, you would think we were child abusers. At least, that is the way we are treated. I would be willing to bet hour for hour, I have more research time concerning vaccinations, than most of the health care professionals I have to deal with. Yet, I am treated with disdain. As for databases, my child's health is the business of me and his mother. It is a fact that WE, THE PARENTS are ultimately responsible for his health. Therefore we, the parents will make the final decision on what his medical care consist of and who will have access to that information. Be it illegal or not. So please, do not make me a criminal. I care more for my child than any bureaucracy could even hope to. THATS A FACT.

We are reserved about visiting emergency rooms and other health care services we may be interested in are scrutinized.

I am an emergency responder and modern medicine saved my first child so don't mistake my attitude toward modern medicine.

It makes me distrust those who would shove this down our collective throats. Why is the health and me and my family any business of anyone else? Why would any politician want to erode my rights as a parent?

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: South Austin Pediatrics  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Peter Hine  
HarassmentCity: Austin  
HarassmentState: Texas

This pediatrians office never informed me of potential harmful risks in immunizations for my children. No family medical history was taken to see if reactions would be a possibility. I just trusted the doctors and the government and I obeyed the law and vaccinated my children as told. After a child receives a vaccination shot the nurses automatically give the child a dose of Tylenol. This just masks any reaction the child may have. A temperature is a classic sign!

My oldest son has ADD, learning disabilities, and requires years of occupational therapy, speech therapy, and continues receiving special education services in a special class, not a regular classroom. He also suffers from a lung disease and has been hospitalized 7 times. He will be 10 years old in May. By the way, I choose not to medicate him for ADD as for fear it will further damage his immune system. My son suffers emotional distress everyday and has been to counseling. It breaks my heart to see him struggle so. He has missed out on childhood.

This experience has changed my views. How could it not? How can I support a system that has damaged everyone in my family???

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor

Our son's first Pediatrician for the first 6months of life NEVER once informed us that our child had suffered adverse reactions to vaccines and continued to vaccinate him. We only discovered the adverse reactions once we had requested our child's complete medical file from this office several years later! No one in this office ever told us that if the child was sick you should NOT vaccinate, that if the patient is yeast sensitive that they should NOT have the Hep-B vaccine. This office not only vaccinated him while he had oral thrush (yeast overgrowth),but while he was sick AND after they already had documented him as having reactions to previous vaccines!!!!

Our son has numerous medical problems all of which are related to the vaccines he received.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Dr. Caldwell's office (pediatrician)  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Caldwell  
HarassmentCity: Austin  
HarassmentState: Tx

After our first child, Quinn, was born we took him to a pediatrician who was on our insurance plan. He did the initial child check-ups. On several issues Dr. Caldwell disagreed with some of my husband's and my stances on what was best for our child. Vaccinations was one of the heated issues. He lectured me on why I needed to vaccinate my child. When I brought up some of the research I had done he acted like my opinion was ridiculous and held very little importance. We could have had an adult conversation yet his God-like attitude of superiority kept him from listening to me, the mother of this child. With just having a baby I was tired, emotional, and overall vulnerable. Dr. Caldwell's underlining message of 'vaccinate your child or he will die' could have easily swayed me at this sensitive time yet I stuck to my decision.

Dr. Calwell's offensive attitude, which later included calling my husband and me irresponsible parents, sent us on our way to look for a different pediatrician. We went through three other doctors before we found someone we liked. The other pediatricians were not as offensive as our first yet still displayed inappropriate behavior. At the very least we would hear, "In my opinion it would be best for your child to be vaccinated." At first this seemed like a harmless statement yet hearing it repeated time and time again after I had already said we do not vaccinate undermined what I had just told them. They were saying 'I do not agree with you and this is what I think you should do'. It is fine to not agree with me yet I am not paying them to hear their opinion on this subject. Truly, the overall message we kept getting from doctors, nurses, government organizations, etc. was, 'vaccinate your child or he will die'. The pressure was enormous to vaccinate. (Our current pediatrician has never once lectured or commented in any way to vaccinate and she is pro-vaccine. I commend her on her professional behavior).

Most people think that children have to be vaccinated, that there is no other option. This is not true. The advertising to vaccinate is so wide spread and yet the information on why a parent may choose not to vaccinate is almost underground. I have grown a mistrust for the government with how they are handling this issue. I feel the gov't does not have the public's best interest in mind. It is not treating the public like responsible adults by making people aware of and have easy access to all vaccine information, both pro and con.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Pediatric Associates of North Texas  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Peter S. Sherrod  
HarassmentCity: Plano  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 75075

At my daughters 15 mo. check-up they wanted to do routine vaccinations. I asked the doctor if we could wait a couple weeks until her immune system was stronger. She was just coming down with a cold. After her previous 3 sets of vaccinations she always came down with some type of cold, congestion and fussiness right away and I didn't want to add to her current condition. I also proceeded to ask him some questions about vaccinations. Due to various reasons, I had spent time doing some research on my own about vaccinations and wanted to know his opinion about what I found out.

His FIRST reaction to me was "Anyone who doesn't vaccinate is child abusing!" (I never once said I wasn't going to vaccinate). SECOND, he charged me double when I left (The nurse wasn't sure what this code meant on my sheet and took a long time to check me out.) THIRD, and within days of this visit we received a Certified Letter from him with a copy of my records and a list of pediatricians in the area asking us to find a new doctor. FORTH, he summarized this above mentioned visit in my records and lied about what was said during our conversation.

I believe that God allowed this to happen so that I would not continue to inject these foreign substances into my children and possibly be dealing with a permanent side effect. I would like to believe that vaccines have nothing to do with our current crisis with autism and all the forms of it, with asthma, with SIDS, with auto-immune diseases, etc., but there's just no way there are this many coincidences! I am surrounded by people and stories so often and I can't even imagine how these parents cope on a daily basis and I Thank God every day that he allowed this doctor to treat me this way or might not have the most healthy kids I know of! Thank you too PROVE for helping to fight the battle in making honesty prevail!

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
 HarassmentCompany: Our Pediatrician's Clinic  
 HarassmentNames: Pediatrician and her nurse  
 HarassmentCity: San Antonio  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 78231

My teen has ADD, her dad has untreated, undiagnosed Asperger's, her brother has two genetic disorders plus Asperger's, I, her mother, have ADHD. Our pediatrician is also her brother's doctor, so she is aware of this.

We went in to have her tested for suspected strep throat, and the doctor noted that she needed her immunizations updated to comply with the latest regulations. I asked if the injection contained Thimerosal. No one, not even she, could answer the question. She flatly stated that the amount of mercury in an injection was less than what you would get from a can of tuna.

It took forever for them to find out, and they acted angry at having to do this while they were so busy. (There was an epidemic of strep/flu going on, and the clinic was full of crying kids.)

They gave us a waiver to sign that said we had been given an information sheet specific to the injection that listed the possible risks/side effects from the injection, and what to do to report any adverse reactions. The substance being injected was not specified on this waiver, which also had no date, etc. I asked why the form was blank and stated I had no such information sheet. The nurse frowned, muttering something, and disappeared again.

They also hadn't given us with the form to report reactions, or what to look for, until we'd waited fifteen more minutes for that - it wasn't handy, for some reason.

I asked for the information sheet. The nurse acted flustered, and said "you've gotten injections before, it's the same thing."

I told her that my son had regressed and was on the autism spectrum, although he had arrived at his milestones until he was 18 months. I suggested the clinic do some reading about the autism epidemic. She turned red, stammered an apology, and left quickly.

I refused to sign the waiver until we had been given the information sheet. We were also told there is no Thimerosal in the injection she received, which I believe is untrue. I think the clinic lied to us believing we are 'just crackpots' that needed to be processed and gotten out of the way.

I didn't try to argue with the doctor, because I knew then that she hadn't considered the issues, such as the chemical difference between ethyl and methyl mercury, the function of blood-brain barrier, the method of administration, or the role of metallothionein in the body.

I believe she is like most other doctors who haven't read anything except the current 'there has been no connection established between thimerosal and adverse reactions or autism', and further, don't really care, because we are not a significant percentage of her practice. We are 'the troublesome few' that are just unlucky enough to have inherited ASD's.

The nurse and the doctor looked at me like I had just announced I pick up radio transmission in my fillings, or something.

Additionally, my daughter thinks I have lost my mind. She was embarrassed by the awkward confrontation with her trusted and loved pediatrician, and fussed at me all the way home for challenging the clinic about the vaccines. My husband also disbelieves that anything is wrong with our kids, being quite odd himself. I feel very much outnumbered and alone.

It gets really tiring being the only informed advocate for my children, when I have to fight every single institution, particularly the school district, for their well-being. After all, they are supposedly sworn to equally represent the interests of even the least citizens, according to the law.

How is it then the vaccines should be such a point of contention? Why aren't single vaccines readily available, equally covered by insurance, without mercury preservatives?

I don't trust the medical and dental community any longer. We just don't have the same agenda anymore. They have fortified themselves with malpractice insurance, lobbyists, and can administer whatever treatment they deem necessary, on whatever timetable they deem necessary, under the protection of the state and federal laws, with impunity. They have even limited our right to sue for damages. We can't even go to court to recover the expenses of raising an autistic child.

I believe that we outnumbered by the 'normal' population and the issues surrounding vaccines and autism are just not a priority. It is not in the interest of national security to protect those sensitive to vaccine damage, just now. We are acceptable collateral damage, due to the war, the threat of bio-terrorism, and the prominence of the pharmaceutical interest within the current political administration.

When the population has to cope with a large number of autistic kids who aren't able to support themselves, they will care.

Until then, they are fiddling while Rome burns.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor

Pediatrician, constantly pressured and demanded child be vaccinated fully, knowingly that child had history of seizures at birth. During this period received letter from insurance company urging to vaccinate. Thank goodness we moved at the end of the year, this happened with my first child, it has never happened again, I shop around for pediatrician that are respectful of my beliefs.

Harassed by insurance, emotional distress, every time child needed monthly check ups very stressful for me. But never gave in to her beliefs.

This has reinforced my confidence in sticking to my beliefs and instincts. Both of my children are healthier than any of their peers. They recuperate quickly after illness in less than half the amount of time the others have. My current pediatrician respects my religious beliefs. Immunization should be a parental choice, this country has a lot of freedoms, but medical freedom is not a strong one, it is pathetic to use the threat that your child can't attend public school is he doesn't have a round of full vaccines. All of us pay taxes, and this should be respected, I guess it boils down to basic HUMAN RESPECT. I am glad and feel proud I have given my children the gift of health.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: pediatrician's office  
HarassmentNames: Karla Ramsey  
HarassmentCity: Houston  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 77069

When my second son was 2 months old, we took him in for his well child visit. While we did vaccinate at the time, we felt that the rotavirus vaccine was unnecessary for our child. He was not in daycare or any other situations on a regular basis that would expose him to illnesses.

After we told the nurse that we were not interested in that vaccine, although we were giving the rest of his shots, she left and returned with the doctor who told us grim stories about children who had been hospitalized or died after contracting the rotavirus. Of course as concerned parents, we were worried for the safety of our child and consented to the vaccine.

Our worry was increased, however, when only a few weeks later the rotavirus vaccine was pulled from the market because of adverse reactions. There is no doubt in my mind that left to our devices we would not have chosen to give that controversial and, it turns out, dangerous, vaccine. The doctor mentioned NO potential adverse effects for the vaccine.

As a result of this, we began to study the rest of vaccines. Because of our decision to NOT follow the prescribed vaccine schedule, we have to drive an hour to find a pediatrician who will see our children, in spite of the fact that there are no less than 20 pediatricians within 20 minutes. Once, in an emergency situation we attempted to make an appointment with a local pediatrician and were told we could come in, but we would have to use the back door because our unvaccinated child would be a "danger" to the other children. Now, it would seem to me that if the doctor had any confidence in the effectiveness of the vaccines, my unvaccinated children might be perceived to be IN danger, but they should not have been seen as posing a danger. We opted to keep our child at home and observe her longer before taking her in, rather than face this obvious discrimination. If we have an emergency in the future, we would opt to take our children to the emergency room rather than dealing with the discriminatory policies of our local pediatricians.

The consequence of the initial rotavirus vaccine being given was a lot of increased worry once the truth about this vaccine was revealed.

The discriminatory policies of the pediatricians results in increased worry when our children are ill because we know that a trip to the doctor's office is not really an option. It also results in increased expenses as a result of emergency room visits and longer drives to a pediatrician who will see us.

The initial experience was the catalyst for examining the rest of vaccine practices, which has led me to view the whole process in a suspicious manner.

PROVE \* P.O. Box 91566 \* Austin, TX 78709-1566 \* Tel: (512) 288-3999  
[www.VaccineInfo.net](http://www.VaccineInfo.net)

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Pedeatricians Office

Shortly after our first child, we were on a post par tem visit to the pediatrician; of course part of the standard visit is to receive a HEP B shot. I told the nurse we wanted to talk to the doctor about the shot.

When the doctor came into the office I asked her about why a newborn should be getting a shot for a STD. I also told her that I had recently read DPT, a shot in the dark, and wanted to talk about several issues around DPT. The doctor nearly exploded. Her face reddened, and she told in barely controlled anger that that book was "trash" and anything I red in it was total "garbage."

Needless to say, that was the last time we went to that office.

At that time I was very naive about vaccination issues. In life in general, I've learned that when a person reacts so defensively, there is often something to hide. Maybe she was defensive because she knew she was administering poison, in the form of mercury preservative in vaccines, to every newborn and child in her practice?

Anyway, this is a typical example of how many doctors and their staffs react to any questioning of their authority.

Well, it certainly disturbed us that our new doctor could be such a jerk and be so closed minded.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Pediatric Practice of Richard Rivera and Monica Beamer  
HarassmentNames: Monica Beamer  
HarassmentCity: Carrollton  
HarassmentState: Texas

In the fall of 1998 our pediatrician's IPA group, Genesis, separated from its contract with the Aetna HMO in which we were covered by. We were forced to leave our trusted physician of 8 years and find a new pediatrician that was accepting new patients on our particular plan. This list was very limiting and the closest pediatrician accepting new patients and had hospital privileges with the hospital we use was Dr. Richard Rivera in Carrollton, Texas. Therefore, we named him as our children's PCP. His partner was Dr. Monica Beamer.

Shortly after the change, our oldest child became ill with an ear infection and needed immediate attention. I called to make an appointment with Dr. Rivera, but was told he had no available appointments and we would be seeing his partner Dr. Beamer.

I took my child in for the appointment with Dr. Beamer and was given forms to fill out for each of my children since we were new patients. She began to exam my daughter. At some point in the consultation she reviewed the forms we submitted and she questioned why our children were not fully immunized. I explained, the reasons behind our decision. I began by telling her about the past severe adverse reactions that had occurred from past immunizations such has seizures, symptoms of encephalopathy, high fever, extreme swelling and redness at the injection sight, and screaming and high pitch crying for several days just to name a few.

I further explained that I had received an immunization in my late teens, that caused me to become very ill from the vaccine and it left me with a type of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome that exists till this day. A pediatrician told my parents that even though I had a confirmed case of Rubella as a young child along

with a positive titer, that if I ever decided to have children one day, I would not be allowed to because I had not had the Rubella vaccine. Therefore, my parents vaccinated me unnecessarily and it has affected me for life.

I continued by telling her about another incident that caused us to further question the wisdom of immunizing in our family. I told her when our 3rd child was born we began to have some doubts about whether it was safe or not to immunize with the negative history of our first two children. I explained to her that our 3rd child was excluded from a major immunization research study that our pediatrician's group wanted us to participate. This research program was one that lumped several vaccines together into just one vaccine. I was uneasy about this prospect and called the research group to find out how safe the vaccines were. The pharmaceutical company researcher spent over an hour on the phone trying to convince us to participate in the study, but the minute she found out about the siblings adverse reactions, the tone of her voice changed and she immediately said, "your son cannot participate in this research. What is his name so we can take him off the list." I told her his name and she hung up immediately before I had a chance to ask her why. I called back to inquire the reason why. She responded by saying there was too much risk of reaction or injury if a sibling or other family member had any type of seizure. She said the vaccine manufacturer would not take that risk! I then called the vaccine manufacturer to talk with a staff doctor. I told the doctor about the sibling reactions. He said that these were definitely contraindications to take into consideration and then made a statement off the record, "If it was my child, I would not do it." I continued to explain that we discussed all of these concerns with our pediatrician of the past 8 years and he supported our decision.

I also talked with her about our concerns about what was contained in these so called "routine childhood immunizations." I told her we were not willing to inject known carcinogens and other harmful chemicals, vaccines produced from animal organs and components that could contain latent animal viruses, or vaccines that have been produced from aborted fetuses and other human diploid cells that contain DNA and protein.

I also communicated that the administration of vaccines and other immunizing agents conflicts with our family's sincere religious beliefs.

I told her based on that information we were not willing to take the risks.

After I finished, she proceeded to disagree with our reasons and became argumentative. She also told us that if we were that concerned about reactions or certain allergies as contraindications that we could send our children to an Allergist and have them extensively tested and desensitized to whatever was causing this reaction. She proceeded to tell me that if we refused to immunize our children fully that our children could not be seen by their practice.

I reminded her that she was not our primary care physician and I would need to speak with Dr. Rivera. Her response was that it was the practice policy and they belonged with a group who had this policy. She said they were not willing to take the risk.

I questioned her what risk she was speaking of? She just stated again, we will not take the risk. I pressed her for an answer, but she gave us no explanation. I then asked her if we did decide to immunize our children so they could be seen, was she willing to take the risk and pay for any and all future problems or if death occurred. Her answer was, No. I told her then we were unwilling to fully vaccinate our children. She once again said we would not be able to be seen by their office any longer.

The tone of this discussion was heated and very distressing.

This was a very upsetting because we were left with no doctor and our HMO would not allow us to change physicians for 30 days. I was pregnant with our 4th child at the time and it was extremely upsetting to know we would not have a pediatrician for the birth as well.

The doctor dropped my children from the practice because we made a well thought out informed choice not to fully immunize. We were told unless we fully immunized our children they would not be seen by the doctors.

We were unable to change physician's for 30 days and even at that there was not another physician on the list accepting new patients.

There was much emotional distress at the thought we had no pediatrician to care for our children and the one I was pregnant at the time.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Doctor's Office  
HarassmentNames: Nurse in office  
HarassmentCity: Ft Worth  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 76148

Presented religious exemption form. Nurse informed me that child could not remain on medicaid if not vaccinated. Was very adamant that she was correct. When she presented situation to doctor, she was corrected and told to accept the form and drop the matter. She muttered about the situation, but did not pursue pressure to vaccinate again.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor

My then Pediatrician, called to tell me that my daughter had not received her 5 year old vaccines. Apparently he was reviewing her chart. My daughter who is 7 with a dx of PDD/NOS regressed tremendously after the MMR shot at 16 months. I informed the doctor that I was no longer going to have her receive any vaccines and he stated "That's ridiculous". I home school my daughter and I told him I was willing to have her titers tested and if negative I would consider MMR separately. He said, "NO, NO TITERS !!!!! don't want your daughter in my practice any longer". He was mean and nasty, condescending, and made me feel like an inadequate mother. He kept yelling at me. The next day I spoke to the head nurse in the office who said that he had no right to say and do what he did. I am Registered Nurse and have been for 23 years. I have 3 children, and would never do anything to harm them. My daughter suffered a vaccine injury. She was a perfectly healthy little girl until all that poison she received.

This doctor threw me out of the practice, it caused emotional distress and my daughter has suffered a vaccine injury.

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER will I put another vaccine into my daughter.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Mark Miller  
HarassmentCity: Kilgore  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 75662

We were told that our son, Adam, who is autistic could not start Kindergarten without all his immunizations. Because of our fear that the immunizations might have contributed to his autism, we called our family physician and asked him to write a letter stating that he believed that Adam should not receive the vaccinations. He refused to write the letter and also told us that he would not give Adam any more vaccinations.

We felt totally between a " rock and a hard place." I cried all weekend and was very distressed because Adam missed his first two days of Kindergarten. It was my first year to reenter the teaching field after being out since the birth of our first child. It caused tremendous stress and frustration in our family. Needless to say, we searched for another doctor. That was another stressful time for our family. It took about 5 months and two doctors to find one that was good with Adam. I went through about 48 hours feeling very helpless and alone.

This made us really start to believe that there might be something to the theory of the immunizations causing autism. Even though we would not have agreed with the doctor in refusing to write the letter we would have respected his right to disagree with us. To tell us that he would never give Adam an immunization again seemed to make him look guilty. We completely lost all trust and respect in him. Adam had seen a neurologist that summer. We contacted him and he felt very strongly that Adam should NOT have anymore immunizations. He writes a letter for us every year when we go to see him. Imagine that! A pediatric neurologist thinking that immunizations might be harmful to my child. Wonder what he knows????????????????????

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor

My child's doctor and I did not agree on when to start vaccinations and whether my newborn child was at risk of contracting all of the diseases in question. My intention was to wait until my child's immune system had matured a little while I did more research. I requested mfr inserts of the vaccines my child was to be given and was denied, and was told by my doctor that they did not say anything that the CDC fact sheets did not say.

My child's doctor told me that she was not comfortable with having a non-vaxed patient and that she would no longer be able to provide services. However, she forgot about his non-vax status and hasn't refused to see my child the couple times I have wanted a doctor for my child since then.

This made me push harder and learn and not stifle my questions and not believe that doctors should be given the benefit of the doubt just because they have more schooling. Doctors will always have to convince me now.

Doctors seem to be unusually defensive about vaccines, more than other mainstream health issues. My doctor certainly didn't want me to have the info in the insert and have to answers the questions that it might raise. Perhaps she didn't know what the insert said herself.

And since I've read the inserts in the mean time, it appears that doctors have some motivation not known to the general public to push vaccines so hard and without question. Doctors just seem to take it on faith that these toxic ingredients all magically combine to do something incredibly good, and can't defend their faith.

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: Cook Children's  
HarassmentNames: Dr. Kathryn Levy  
HarassmentCity: Lewisville  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 75067

I was told by our pediatrician that vaccinations were "perfectly safe" and that there was NO reason to not give them. I felt as if there was absolutely no discussion with her. She was not open to talking about any risks.

I was never (nor have ever at any other doctor's office)been asked about what our child might be allergic to prior to a vaccination. No pediatrician has ever talked to us about any contraindications for vaccines. I have asked for the package inserts to the drugs, but this office never supplied them.

When we chose to delay vaccinations because of concern over our child's physical illnesses and readiness for vaccinations, our doctor scolded me and told me they were "perfectly safe." She told me if we would not vaccinate on schedule, then we could find another doctor. I was also told this by a nurse over the telephone.

Interesting that the "schedule" she referred to is a "Recommended" schedule. Again, there was obviously no point in discussions with her.

Since leaving that practice, I have obtained package inserts to the vaccinations and find that they are full of information and contraindications that have NEVER been discussed with me. If I go and get any other type of drug, I am given the package insert and also asked specifically about any type of allergies.

We must insist that doctors become more open to discussing vaccinations. They must be willing to discuss contraindications, allergies, and what the true contents of each vaccination are. There is much progress to be made in this area.

When I read the package inserts for these drugs, I do not read that they are "perfectly safe."

This doctor threw us out of the practice...refused to see us anymore.

This experience makes me feel that doctors are being very irresponsible with the health of our children. They need to be more open and honest regarding vaccinations. We are asked to inject our tiny baby with so many drugs and chemicals, and yet they treat us with disrespect and, in my opinion, dishonesty, if we are hesitant to do so!

I think some doctors want to keep us in the dark regarding what is really in the vaccines and what the real risks are. Why else would they not provide us with the details regarding these drugs??

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HarassmentCategory: Doctor  
HarassmentCompany: memorial hermann memorial city  
HarassmentNames: ped.nurse  
HarassmentCity: houston  
HarassmentState: tx  
HarassmentZip: 77060

My child was a steriod baby(invetro for16 weeks),and we asked that they not give her a shot until we knew for a fact the the steriods were out of her system. They brought her to me 2hrs. after birth and informed me that they gave my child a shot, that anyone who took the time to read the label, with the warning IF TAKING STERIODS DO NOT INJECT would not have given it my child. I have spent too much time wondering if my child's health problems,(deafness) was a medical disregard for parents rights, or just not taking the time to learn what happens when you don't heed warning labels. We took the time before our child was born to no avail.

## Hospitals

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital  
 HarassmentCompany: Texas Children's Hospital  
 HarassmentNames: Dr. Mark Ward  
 HarassmentCity: Houston  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 77030

Our family history with adverse reactions to vaccinations is long, painful, detailed and duly documented with medical reports and physician visits. However, this report is about my son Brennan's experience and how our rights to choose were violated by Texas Children's Hospital's aggressive immunization policies.

After Brennan's immunizations at 4,6.9, and 18 months, he developed chronic labored nighttime breathing, chronic sleep apnea, chronic swollen lymph glands, night sweats, and intermittent fevers. Most alarmingly, he developed pectus excavatum at around 5 or 6 months of age. This condition was not present at birth.

Pectus excavatum is a condition when the cartilage of the rib cage grows inward. Brennan's healthcare provider and I concur that he had an autoimmune response to his vaccinations. Family photos and video attest to the fact that after each vaccination, the pectus excavatum became more pronounced and severe. We decided after Brennan's 18 month DPT, M:MR, HEP B, and polio, that he would never have another vaccination.

Unfortunately for Brennan, this choice was negligently taken from him and his parents during a visit to Texas Children's Hospital in September, 1999, during which he was given a DPT shot without our knowledge or our consent. I had been told that the shot was a "tetanus" shot which would have been specific to his injury. Upon discharge we found out that Brennan had actually been given a DPT shot.

This occurred after I specifically told the attending physician, Dr. Mark Ward that Brennan had just been to his family physician two weeks prior and we had discussed the fifth DPT and had chosen not to give it to him. Our family doctor and I concurred, that based on Brennan's past medical history, that it was in his best interest not to have the last DPT. Dr. Mark Ward then said that since Brennan had a DPT at 18 months, the tetanus part was good for 5-10 years and Brennan at 4.5 years would be covered. He then left the exam room and without my knowledge or consent wrote an order for a DPT shot.

Thereafter Brennan suffered for six months with adverse reactions. His medical records confirm once again the swollen lymph glands, pertussis manifestations, elevated white blood counts, low iron, lethargy, fevers, and severe exacerbation of the pectus excavamm.

I wrote to Mark Wallis, CEO. and Dr. Joan Shook, Chief of Services/Emergency Center requesting a written apology be made to Brennan and that changes in their policies to be implemented so this would not happen again. During a phone conversation, Dr. Shook's response was an offer to make the balance of the medical bill "disappear". I was then asked to meet with Texas Children's Hospital's Risk Management Department. It became apparent to me that they would not be forthcoming with my requests. They seemed more interested in damage control than in the actual requests for a written apology and vaccination policy changes.

My son suffered physically and emotionally due to the arrogance and complete careless disregard by Texas Children's Hospital of my son's well being, my parental rights, the advice of another doctor.

I strongly feel that it is a parent's right to choose whether or not to vaccinate their child.

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital  
HarassmentCompany: Baylor Hospital  
HarassmentCity: Dallas  
HarassmentState: TX

After I gave birth to my son at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, I received a vaccination for Rubella. At the time, I remember asking about it and the nurse replying I had to have it and something about "if I wanted to have more children ) so I got the shot... as you're probably can imagine after having a baby - you are in no shape for an argument. This was in July 2000. In December 2000, I was diagnosed with Mono after a terrible fatigue. I was still feeling exhausted in April 2001 and was diagnosed with Epstein Barr Virus aka Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. I recently read an article that there is a correlation from a study done in California (enclosed) linking the Rubella Vaccination and Epstein Barr. Let me say I wish I had never had that shot!!!! I have good days and bad, but suffer every day with this. I had done much research prior to giving birth and was not aware that I would receive immunization for anything. Had I known that this would be "offered" and had some inclination ahead of time, I would have declined. I wish I would have known. Of course, there is no way of knowing that this is how I got EBV but I would have liked the option.

It seems the one thing they don't ever cover is how difficult it is NOT to vaccinate your child. I know that I have fought it every step of the way. More information is needed on what to do to not vaccinate your child - of course I am certain they are reluctant to give out this information, I can hear the phones ringing already!!!!

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital  
HarassmentCompany: Seton Hospital  
HarassmentCity: Austin  
HarassmentState: TX

When I filled out the birth certificate information I saw and read the small printed line requesting permission for release of my child's records into the immunization registry. I checked NO and returned my form. When I received the birth certificate for my review I found that the YES box had been checked where I had put NO for the registry. When I revealed the error and requested it be changed I was told that the computer automatically enters YES as the default answer. The woman then proceeded to encourage me and explain what the registry was by saying that "it's an easier way for you to keep track of all the shots no matter what doctor you go to, you won't have to worry about all the forms and records anymore". She was very flippant about it and made it sound like it was just for the convenience of the parent. I was better informed and could see the deeper implications of such a registry and declined with confidence. What if I hadn't read the form as closely? What if I had been preoccupied with my child's health concerns? What if I trusted the form to have been typed properly? This has been my experience and I am very thankful that I have the information that I do to make such decisions. I have had four children and have learned to be "on guard" when I am in the hospital for delivery. It is a very vulnerable time for parents, especially new parents, and should not be a time in which health care workers push their agenda the hardest. Another point to be mentioned along this thought is that on the information channel in the hospital rooms I recall seeing vaccine info. being presented with underlying scare tactics--encouraging parents to "protect" their children by vaccination to prevent these horrible, life-threatening diseases. And there is naturally no information presented about any contraindications or risks that are involved when the vaccinations are received. I remember thinking to myself what if I did not have the information I did and simply trusted that what I was getting from the hospitals and doctors was accurate?

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital  
HarassmentCompany: Seton Hospital

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HarassmentCity: Austin  
HarassmentState: TX

Upon discharge from the hospital I was informed that my son had received the HepB vaccine. I was horrified, I had decided before delivery that I wanted to wait on all vaccinations. The nurse then proceeded to show me the consent form that had my signature on it. I do not remember the form or signing it but it was my sketchy signature. I later learned that it was in with the standard forms for treatment, etc. that were brought to me DURING LABOR. I felt like I had been tricked. I know I would not have consented had I been presented with the form in my right mind.

This happened with the birth of my first child, I have had 3 more children and upon arrival to the hospital I immediately request all consent forms, specifically the HepB form so I can read and sign and decline with a clear head.

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital  
HarassmentCompany: Seton Northwest Hospital  
HarassmentNames: Nurse Maternity Ward  
HarassmentCity: Austin  
HarassmentState: Texas

A few hours after my daughter's birth the nurse came in to check my blood pressure and other vital signs. She told me I needed to have a tetanus vaccination. She told me it is hospital policy to vaccinate the mother on the birthdate of the newborn so it would be easy for the mother to remember the date of vaccination. I was breast feeding and could not understand why I needed a tetanus shot. My baby would also ingest this immunization in my breast milk. This does not make sense to me and I feel someone should look at the hospital maternity records because apparently it happened everyday!!!

I now have Cardiomyopathy and IGA Nephropathy. For the last several years I have been gravely ill for a woman of 37 years of age. I have a son 8 years old that is severely autistic due to vaccinations. Emotional distress is an understatement!

All of my experiences with immunizations have definitely affected my views. If I were a lawmaker I would require each and every Doctor to do a thorough family background history on every patient before vaccinating. It is a very simple process, and would save many, many lives.

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital

Our son was born in Dec, 1997 and with-in the first 24 hours of life was inoculated with the Hep-B vaccine. He then started having difficulty regulating his body temperature and later while still in hospital developed a rash. They only told us that he had a slight fever and that the doctor was called in to check him. The doctor told them that it was because he was bundled to tightly in clothes and blankets and that he would be fine. The rash developed the day after the shot and they never noticed it.

We only know about the fluctuation of body temperature, because several years later I requested a copy of his entire medical file from them where it clearly showed his temperature was either above or below the normal reference range.

We were never told of any adverse reactions that could be caused from the Hep-B vaccine. We now know that the skin rash could have been a Candidia rash and/or mercury rash. That the Oral Thrush he developed shortly after that was a direct reaction to it. And that the difficulty regulating body temperature can be a result of mercury poisoning/toxicity.

Our son has suffered and is still suffering from vaccine injuries. He has numerous health issues and is considered a "medically fragile child".

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital  
HarassmentCompany: Austin Diagnostic Medical Center  
HarassmentNames: Various Drs and Nurses  
HarassmentCity: Austin  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 78758

When I was pregnant with my first daughter, I did all my research ahead of time. I was intending on fully vaccinating her, but I was just uncomfortable with giving the hepatitis B vaccine at birth. I wanted to wait until she was older - I could find no medical reason to vaccinate a newborn baby for a disease spread like HIV when I had not even consumed so much as an aspirin while I was pregnant.

To be prepared, I visited Austin Diagnostic Medical Center to tour and asked for all the paperwork to read ahead of time. I asked where was the sheet that would allow me to decline hepatitis B immunization. The nurse told me that I wasn't allowed to. I told her I was the mother, I would make this decision, not her.

She got a couple of doctors and 2 more nurses to come and "talk" to me about this shot. When the last nurse sat there raising her voice at me that I was going to be the one responsible for stopping the worldwide eradication for the Hepatitis B disease, I knew these people were out of control and I walked out the door and never looked back.

I drove to the office of a midwife and begged her to take me as a patient because I refused to be treated like an idiot.

It was the best thing that could have happened. My good friend's baby died 16 hours after her hep B vaccine.

I have several friends whose children were perfectly fine until their school age booster shots and now they have autistic kids.

Vaccines are like a religion to some doctors and nurses.

What started out as a concern to just one vaccine has turned into a healthy skepticism because of doctor's knee-jerk categorical dismissals of vaccine reactions. They refuse to talk about risks like the Catholic Church refused for the longest time to acknowledge the problem with some priests molesting children.

Medical advice is just that, advice. If a doctor or nurse is not willing to have an intelligent discussion about a vaccine and evaluate risks vs. benefits for my individual child, why should I trust them?

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital  
HarassmentCompany: Harris Hospital  
HarassmentNames: Nurse in hospital nursery  
HarassmentCity: Ft Worth  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 76106

Nurse planned to vaccinate child with Hep B despite chart note that vaccine had been refused and no proper consent form. She was very put out when I refused to allow the infant to be vaccinated against the mother's wishes.

This increased my decision to make sure that parents I deal with understand that they can refuse despite pressure from medical staff.

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HarassmentCategory: Hospital  
 HarassmentCompany: Texas Children's Hospital  
 HarassmentNames: Dr. Carol Green  
 HarassmentCity: Houston  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip:

I recently took my son to the hospital because the underside of his chin started to swell, he had a fever of 103 and was having difficulty swallowing. Dr. Green examined my son, when she was told he was "not up to date on his immunizations" she became alarmed and rushed us to x-rays, fearing he had epiglottitis (caused by the bacteria hemophilus influenza B-Hib). We were never told exactly what my son had. She told me she wanted to go ahead and start iv antibiotics. I told her I would rather wait for the blood tests to come back, so that they may read them and determine if his problem was bacterial or viral because I did not want to overmedicate or medicate him unnecessarily if what he had was viral. She persisted and told me my baby would "Die", if indeed he did have epiglottitis. I told her I would feel more comfortable giving him oral antibiotics until we knew what exactly he had. She said she would not give us oral antibiotics and that "no one here is going to write you a prescription" for oral antibiotics, you will go home and come back later with a "dying baby." Needless to say she was very antagonistic towards me. We ended up getting the oral antibiotics and staying overnight for observation, we went home 24 hours later. I also would like to mention that another ER doctor, a very nice young man, came on duty and came in to speak with us also very concerned about us not being "up" on our immunizations. He inquired about our reasons why, and then said "is it the MMR, because I would be concerned about that one also, when I become a parent I probably will not give that one to my children."

When I tried to switch doctors when my daughter was about 1, I interviewed with a Dr. Rodriguez (I think that was her name-I could find out) I told her about our choice to not immunize and she just looked at me and said "well that's just stupid." We never went back to her.

Our new pediatrician was out of town and the Dr. on call (March 2003) saw my son after he was released from the hospital and told me I really needed to do my homework and gave me several web sites to read and even called my house later with more web sites to look up. We explained to her (Dr. Hite) some of the risks we had read about and were concerned with, she dismissed us and then barely let us get a word in. I told her that my husband and I had chicken pox and measles and we are just find and that we would rather let nature take its course.

March 24, 2003 A 12-15 month old came down with chicken pox, a sign was posted in my son's "Mother's Day Out" Program. She receive her shot 3 weeks ago.

Some friends of mine when interviewing Dr.'s for their newborn decided to go ahead and immunize (initially they were against it) after the Dr. they had chosen told them he would not treat their infant if they did not immunize. She just received her first round on March 21, 2003.

One of my clients' daughters had a reaction to her DPT booster. After receiving her shot she could not sit up and she had a high fever, she recovered a couple of days later. They decided not to give her any more immunizations or to immunize the next 3 children.

My personal story is mild compared to some of the horror stories I have read, good luck. (We just get harassed every time we have to visit the Pediatrician)

About my other experience, after we left the ER I was pretty upset. Dr. Green had said, "Dead, Die, and Dying" during our conversation, I didn't let her intimidate me too much (we did end up with IV though). I still feel like I need to write to Texas Children's Hospital.

My daughter is one of the healthiest children I know. We didn't have all of these immunizations when I was a child, my daughter and son will be just fine.

## Schools

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HarassmentCategory: School  
HarassmentCompany: Tomball Elementary  
HarassmentNames: School Nurse  
HarassmentCity: Tomball  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 77375

The nurse insisted my child had to be immunized and would not give me an exemption form. My husband had to go and talk to her to get the form. We filled it out and got the exemption. However it has been such a fight that we now homeschool.

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HarassmentCategory: School  
HarassmentCompany: Whitesboro Elem.  
HarassmentNames: School nurse/ don't know her name  
HarassmentCity: Whitesboro  
HarassmentState: Texas

I was informed that my son "HAD" to get the heb A shot before he could return to school next fall. My Son is up to date on all of his shots, But after a lot of research I know my son was damaged because of them. He is autistic and I will not allow any more poison put into his body. She told me that I didn't have a choice. After more research I found out that many of the kids in that school have never had the shots. Their Parents signed a Wavier or a Doctor Note.

My son has been DAMAGED from the Shots! He was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 2 1/2 years of age. He is now 9.

I am so mad at the fact that Gov. has known about the Mercury and the affects that it does, And I thought that I was being a Good Mother making sure that my son was vaccinated . Now here I am trying to raise a child with very little money I can't afford Doctors and Specialists to help him. The program at School is all that we have and it seems to not be enough. I tell everyone that I know that is getting ready to have a baby to make sure that they research and never just do it because they are told too. Make sure that there is no mercury!!!!

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HarassmentCategory: School  
HarassmentCompany: Danbury Independent School District  
HarassmentNames: Susan Larson  
HarassmentCity: Danbury  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 77511

I filed a religious exemption with my child's school. They would not let my daughter come back, because they did not believe that I could use it. So my child was out of school for about 2 weeks while they researched it. The schools need to be better educated.

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HarassmentCategory: School  
HarassmentCompany: Grady Middle School HISD

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HarassmentNames: School Administrator  
HarassmentCity: Houston  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 77057

I was told that my son could not attend school if I didn't agree to immunization. Threats of kicking him out. However, I stood my ground and my rights. I provided the school the amendments and proposed that they guarantee me that the vaccine would not harm my child. They wouldn't.

This confirmed to me that they, the school administrator nor the school nurse put the complete faith in the good of the vaccine.

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HarassmentCategory: School  
HarassmentCompany: Leander School District  
HarassmentNames: Special Education  
HarassmentCity: Leander  
HarassmentState: Texas

I am a concerned grandparent. We have a grandson with autism which we firmly believe is from a vaccine reaction. He began a special education program at the age of 3. I have gone to discussions on his programs and to ARD meetings at his school. It seems to me that there are way too many meetings with so little happening in the way of help for our grandson. He made minimal progress until about 1-1/2 years ago. Because of his disability he is in special education classes. Had he not had the vaccination he could have possibly been in the regular classroom.

My grandson has very few rights. He can never be a "normal" little boy or when grown could never be president or even a government employee. On a more personal level, our son's first born will never have the chance our son had to play baseball, football, etc. and other things a lot of boys like to do to fulfill their lives. Our grandson was just like any other baby until he was about 18-24 months old. He said the usual "mama", "dada", "bye-bye", etc. until that time. And then all the talking stopped. Many many times I would hold him on my lap and say, "We are going to talk" and repeat those words to him trying to get him to respond. All I got was a blank stare. It is a very emotional process to try to educate an autistic child. There is pain in our family - pain that will never go away. And, as is always the case, no one can ever understand the whole process of raising an autistic child and try to get the best for their lives until you have an autistic child in your family.

This has very definitely affected my views on immunization. I think that each family needs to have the right to make informed decisions for their child but information must be given the parents before informed decisions can be made. Had our family known of the potential risks of vaccinations for children, we could have had discussions on this and exercised the choice not to vaccinate.

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HarassmentCategory: School  
HarassmentCompany: Katy Independent School District  
HarassmentCity: Katy  
HarassmentState: Texas

My son was seriously injured immediately after receiving his first Hep B vaccination; after he received his second 30 days later, his condition worsened.

As a family we decided to hold off on the Hep B vaccination for our son. Our son had received all other vaccines. We were forced to get him vaccinated when we received a letter from the Katy School District that he would face expulsion if we did not get him vaccinated.

The note we received from KISD did not inform us that there was an exemption process we could have applied for. In addition no mention of the serious possible side effects of this shot were given by either medical practitioners or the school district.

Our pediatrician sent a letter to KISD that our son should never, ever be force to take the final Hep B vaccine. We fear for his health if he is ever mistakenly given the shot against his will or knowledge by a medical professional that gets a hold of his records and decides to act on their own.

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HarassmentCategory: School  
HarassmentCompany: Riverside Applied Learning center  
HarassmentNames: Office personnel and Nurse  
HarassmentCity: Fort Worth  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 76111

When we applied to Kindergarten at RALC we were informed that our son could not attend unless he had been fully immunized. I asked about waivers or exemptions. I was referred to another office of the FWISD and was told by someone else the only exemptions were for religious beliefs. I signed a religious waiver so that my son could go to school. I took on a religion to do it honestly.

Is there harm in finding out that a religion has to support my perspective on vaccinations to legitimize my stand or my stand for my children doesn't RATE with my government?  
Yes. There is harm.

Is there harm in finding out that my son would be denied an education, even as I pay my TAXES and support other children's right to a free education, if I continue to resist a state mandated vaccination program that cannot explain the phenomenal rise of autism?  
Yes. There is harm.

Is there harm in claiming a religion so that my sons can go to school without first entering a life and death / health or harm lottery? Yes. I suspect there is.

This experience has MOST affected my views on LIBERTY. According to my dictionary:  
Liberty: a right to engage in certain actions without control or interference, AND  
Liberties: a breach or overstepping of propriety or social convention. These two definitions speak of both freedom of CHOICE and RESPONSIBILITY. IF I am the responsible party, then I am the only one who can make choices for my children and still exclaim the existence of liberty in the State of Texas.

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HarassmentCategory: School  
HarassmentCompany: Clear Lake Church of Christ Mothers Day Out program  
HarassmentNames: Debbie Blackburn  
HarassmentCity: Houston  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 77062

I had registered my son (age 4) for the mother's-day-out program, and had included a copy of his medical exemption form at the time of registration. During the first day of 'class', I received a phone call telling me that they could not accept my son unless he was fully vaccinated. I told them that due to severe reaction problems, he had a legal medical exemption, which they had a copy of, and this exemption was acceptable to any and all public and private schools. She agreed that while this was acceptable other places, they as a private "school" did not have to accept it, and felt his not being vaccinated put the other children at risk.

It was emotionally upsetting to be rejected this way when I had a perfectly legal exemption. I felt that she was uneducated on the issues because if the other children were fully vaccinated, then why would they be at risk (if their vaccines were so effective?)?

While this did not alter my views on Immunizations (I was already well educated due to my son's previous reactions), it did affect my views on the amount of education that is given to the public regarding how immunizations work, and their effectiveness.

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HarassmentCategory: School  
 HarassmentCompany: t.m. clark elementary school  
 HarassmentNames: school nurse  
 HarassmentCity: portland  
 HarassmentState: tx  
 HarassmentZip: 78374

In 1999 was told my child could not attend classes at the school without be vaccinated I asked for a waiver and was told there were no provisions for vaccine waivers. I removed my child from the school for about 2 months. Armed with the information from P.R.O.V.E. I was able to get the school to reconsider their position on vaccine waivers. In 2002 once again I got a notice from the same school that another one of my children required vaccines to attend class there. Once again I informed them of the law via a vaccine waiver. Now on the first day of school I take my children to school with their vaccine waivers in hand.

I must wonder if the school gives this waiver information to the state registry system. The school system here does not have any of my children's ssn as I refused to give them the information when they failed to show a valid reason for needing it, or that provisions were in place to safeguard the information from unauthorized disclosure. They said words to effect of "what is the privacy act of 1974?" even though their school handbook refers to it more than 10 times WRT release of grades, absences and the like.

I home schooled one of my children for about 2 months in 1999, as a first grader I had him doing 3rd grade level math and reading. He continues to bring home all "A"s.

When I was in the military (I retired in Feburary) I refused any and all vaccines that they offered (read ordered) due to their refusal to acknowledge the hazards of mercury or that they would be responsible for any harm caused by any of the vaccines. As a non-deployer I was never asked to take the anthrax vaccine produced by a company that is partially owned by a former chief of naval operations.

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HarassmentCategory: School  
 HarassmentCompany: William Penn Elementary School  
 HarassmentNames: Linda Loomis  
 HarassmentCity: San Antonio  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 78254

My incident happened in Bakersfield, Calif., although my husband and I are now Texas residents. As I was beginning 4th grade, I came into contact with someone who had recently been inoculated against smallpox. The contact person remains, to this day, unknown. The serum/pus/blood from the other individual's inoculation site entered the active eczema outbreak on my arm at the time. More than 80 smallpox-like pustules erupted in the crook of my left arm. The infection was so severe that physicians considered the surgical amputation of my left arm. I was out of school for more than three weeks. The treating dermatologist thought I would be horribly disfigured, but luckily, I recovered fully. I was never inoculated against smallpox, but suffered greatly from the passage of this live-virus vaccine to me.

As described above, I suffered a very rare vaccine injury. The CDC estimates the type of transmission of the vaccinia virus to be one in 27 million. Usually, the contact is known. I stand as the statistical anomaly. I don't recall if my father's insurance through Atlantic Richfield Oil Company paid for the doctor's visits and multiple injections of penicillin. I know that it was my mother and I slugging it out alone for three weeks. I was virtually isolated from the outside world, and one very sick little girl. I never received any acknowledgement from anyone in government for the adverse vaccine reaction that I experienced--no one from the county, state or federal level. Through the entire ordeal, my parents were worried sick. If I had had my arm amputated or had been disfigured, my life would have been so different--in innumerable ways!

I am wholly against the smallpox inoculation program currently under way in the United States, particularly since smallpox was eradicated globally about 25 years ago, and it's been more than 50 years since there was a case in the United States. There have been, in the last month or so, several reported cases of contact transmission from military personnel who were recently been inoculated. In the last week, three deaths have been documented as a result of smallpox vaccinations--two of health care workers, and as of this morning, a member of the National Guard--all having previous heart conditions. The Bush administration has not laid out the real threat potential as a reason for the inoculation of thousands of first responders with the Dryvax smallpox vaccine.

There is inadequate screening, no widespread, uniform compensation program for disfigurement or death. The plan currently proposed by the U.S. Congress is weak and does not justly reward those who will become ill or who will die. The current National Vaccine Injury Compensation program is equally as flawed. The smallpox inoculation program as currently administered is a sham of the greatest possible magnitude. The Bush administration ought to hang its head in shame for such a hasty, not-thought-out, too rapidly administered public health program. What recourse do the families of the four dead individuals now have?

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HarassmentCategory: School

School refused to allow enrollment of child without vaccination status. Refused to recognize any exemptions valid for either OK or TX.

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HarassmentCategory: School

HarassmentDate: May 2002

HarassmentCompany: Private School in Sugar Land, TX (I won't name)

HarassmentNames: "Sara" (mom)/"Robert" (son)

My 4 year old son was admitted into a private school pre-k program in April, 2002, and initially I submitted a religious exemption form to waive the vaccinations he was lacking with the registration papers. The school informed me that they had a written policy that required a pastor or religious leader to write a letter to accompany the religious exemption (is that an invasion of privacy?). I then obtained a medical exemption from a D.O. who had been my son's doctor for 2 years. The letter was written according to TDH guidelines (vaccines would be injurious, lifelong exemption, etc.), but the school refused to accept this saying they needed more information about the specific reactions he had to each vaccine, when he had them, and what treatment he received. This letter had to be written by the doctor who administered the shot. I called TDH and found that none of this information was required, but the school said they were a private school and could ask for more information than was required by the state (of course, they had no policy stating these requirements). I then got the D.O. to write out in a letter the reactions my son had to vaccinations that I observed, but the school said they may turn the matter over to the school board (a very few of whom are medical professionals, if any) to decide whether they would let my son in. I ended up having to go to another holistic MD (at my own expense) who wrote a letter saying she was in agreement with the D.O.. I informed the school that if these two professional opinions were not enough, then I would find another school for my child. At this point, they finally relented and my child was accepted.

I went through several weeks where I did not know where my child would go to school and I spent a lot of my own money on doctor visits that were not even necessary. It made me angry and made me feel discriminated against!

It has only made me realize that these shots are practically forced without regard given to individual conditions/ reactions, even with a valid medical exemption. It has made me even more resolved NOT to have someone force that vaccines on my child in order for him to attend school.. It really scares me that the health department may have this information on my child and have the authority and power to call me and 'inform' me about the need for vaccination. Parents need to be better warned about the possible side effects of the vaccines in detail, not just given the consent for to sign. We are playing Russian roulette with our kid's futures! Being myself a medical professional, I know how MD's, pharmaceutical companies, and lawmakers can be swayed by politics and the motive for making money and this can fuel their desires for having every child vaccinated "100%" (for example, HMO's rewarding MD's for having 100% vaccinated kids, MD's having stock or investments in certain pharmaceutical companies that make vaccines).

## Day Care

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HarassmentCategory: Daycare  
HarassmentNames: Gwen Demers  
HarassmentCity: San Antonio  
HarassmentState: Texas

When we told her that we did not immunize our youngest girl, she refused to allow her in the day care. We told her we could fill out an exemption form, but she didn't want to take the "risk" of our little girl infecting one of the other children.

Since she was a member of our church, she then informed the church nursery that our little girl was not immunized. The church did not want her in the nursery for fear of some "risk" to the other children. This caused emotional distress for both us and our child.

I strongly believe that I am protecting my children from harm by not immunizing. This experience only made us more determined to protect our children at all costs.

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HarassmentCategory: Daycare  
HarassmentCity: Spring Branch  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 78163

2 incidents with women who have a daycare centers out of their home.

First daycare center - upon finding out that we have a medical exemption from a Medical Doctor that is even notarized, she proceeded to ask the parents of the children that were already in the daycare if they would mind that our child was not fully vaccinated. She informed us that she would not take our child due to the other parents did not want our child with theirs if he was not vaccinated.

Second daycare center - upon finding out that we have not fully vaccinated out child, she did not know the law and would look into it. The next day she informed us that she would only take our child if we had an exemption from a medical doctor. I informed her that we do have a notarized exemption from a medical doctor, she then stated that she would only take our child if he was immunized with measles and chicken pox. I informed her again that we have a medical exemption from all vaccinations. She then stated that it did not matter and that her daycare is private and she will not take our son into her center.

## Health Department

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
 HarassmentCity: College Station  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 77840

On the afternoon of Jan. 29, 2002, I was house sitting for my in-laws in the College Station area. The doorbell rang and when I opened the door I was greeted by a worker with the Texas Dept. of Health. He informed me that he was doing a survey to determine immunization rates among local residents. He asked if there were any children in the home and their immunization status. I informed him there wasn't and that I thought the survey to be an invasion of privacy and "over the top" for a state agency to be involved in.

This method of survey did little to harm me or my children, but I was alarmed at the steps state agencies were taking to determine compliance. It definitely had a "big brother" feel and I ascertained that there was more to the "survey" than just data collection.

This reinforced my opinion that required immunization continues to be suspect and that parents and adults should be able use their own discernment and wisdom in seeking such medical treatment. The government involvement should be minimal and more should be done to inform parents of their choices. Also databases of private medical information should not be maintained.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
 HarassmentCompany: Health Department  
 HarassmentNames: Ronald Harkins, shot records inspector  
 HarassmentCity: Nacogdoches  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 75963

I have decided to not have the Varicella vaccine for my two children - it is only newly required in Texas and I don't want my kids to be participants in this experiment. They have had their other, older and more well-studied, shots. When the health department inspector came to inspect our records at the daycare, he saw the notarized form (as required by state licensing laws) in my son's file, refusing the Varicella vaccine. He gave me a stern speech about the benefits of vaccinations, especially focusing on the concept of "herd immunity", and then went on to basic "scare tactics" to try to encourage me to get the vaccination. He painted a grim picture of armed National Guardsmen quarantining my family in our home in the event of an "outbreak" of chickenpox (only recently classified as a "reportable" disease.) Both the content and attitude of his lecture felt like attempts at coercion to me.

Refusal to get vaccinated is cause for refusal for admittance to daycare, except with the notarized exemption statement, which I have obtained. This required extra time and effort on my part to obtain. Also, I have had some emotional distress about this whole matter, regarding the government's attempt to over-involve itself in my life and my parenting decisions. I have additional emotional distress now because of the difficulty of getting my children exposed to chickenpox.

This experience has made me even more aware of the lack of knowledge about the varied aspects of vaccine information - even supposedly knowledgeable public health officials only present one side of the story. I am increasingly aware of how much the government tries to insert itself into decisions that should remain with the family, who knows their own situation and their own children best. The family will bear the brunt of any consequences and long-term responsibilities for their decisions, so the decisions should be

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for them to make. It seems to me to be similar to the phrase that "duties or responsibilities not expressly given to the federal government will remain with the state" - that keeps decision making as local as possible, for decisions to be made by the people who are affected by them. I wish the State governments would adopt a similar mindset - leave decision-making as local possible (with the family as one basic unit) - respecting the ability of other people to make their own decisions, even though someone else may not agree with it.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
 HarassmentCompany: San Antonio Metropolitan Health District  
 HarassmentNames: Mark Ritter, Director Immunization Division  
 HarassmentCity: San Antonio  
 HarassmentState: TX

Last summer my family was on the WIC program. Since vaccines are not mandatory to receive WIC benefits, I had opted out of disclosing my children's vaccine records to the WIC program. I signed a form at the WIC office that stated I did NOT want my child's vaccine information released to the SAMHD. A few months before my next WIC appointment I received a phone call, at my home, from the SAMHD wanting to know why my daughter's shot records were not up to date in their system and I was instructed to bring her current immunization record to my next WIC appointment. I was notably upset by this phone call, as I had not given anyone, at any time, as far as I am aware, permission to release any medical records belonging to any of my children to the SAMHD or anyone else for that matter. I had never given SAMHD or WIC the express right to create a file for my daughter in their system, at any time.

After going round-and-about with Mark Ritter, director of the immunization division of the SAMHD, I was told, by him – over the phone – that he had “purged” our daughter's record from the registry and that he had also checked to see if my other two older sons were in the registry. He told me, on the phone, that they were not in the registry – and he PROMISED me that they would not ever be put in the registry because he had “blocked” their names. I asked him how our daughter had ever even entered the registry. I believe that he told me, if I remember correctly – it's almost unbelievable – that the County collects birth records from the Birth Records office and any new births are automatically entered into the database. Then routinely they cross-reference their database with the WIC office information and if there is a child under the age of 2, who is on WIC and already in their system that they try and keep the vaccine records up-to-date.

We did not return to the WIC office for our scheduled appointment the following months. We did not need the assistance any longer and the benefits I was receiving from WIC were not enough to warrant the harassment that ensued. Nevertheless, in October or November of 2002, after being ASSURED by Mark Ritter that I would not be contacted again by their office regarding my children's vaccines, we did in fact receive yet another call from a young lady with the SAMHD inquiring about my daughter's vaccine records. Note: Mark Ritter told me that these employees are supposed to call the families to remind them of their WIC appointments (at the BEGINNING of the phone call) and remind them to bring their vaccine records. At no point in time, during the first phone call in August or the phone call in October, did the SAMHD employee “remind” us of our WIC appointment by stating when our next WIC appointment was. They simply just said, “At your next WIC appointment please bring your daughter's vaccine records.”

I did not contact Mark Ritter at this time to complain again about the harassment. We were in the middle of moving and it was an issue I put on the “back burner”. Honestly, I thought the issue was over and I haven't thought about it at all again – until today.

Thursday morning, March 27, 2003, I received a phone call from Nora, a nurse at our private Dr's office. (Dr. Heidi Chumley, San Antonio.) She asked me how old my oldest child was, and I replied “Five”. She asked if he had received any other immunizations at any other private clinic. I said, “No, the only vaccines he's ever received have been through Dr Chumley.” (Later I realized this is not entirely true –

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he had received 2 other vaccines when he was an infant and we lived in Austin.) She said they were just looking in his charts and couldn't find documentation of "any other vaccines" to which I replied, "Well, we do not participate in the SAMHD Immunization Registry, so any record of any vaccine ever given to any of my children should be in his charts." She asked a question to the effect of: 'Oh, you don't want to be in the registry?'. And I said, "No, in fact when I sign the consent for vaccine administration I CLEARLY mark out consent for the registry, county and state, and even go so far as to denote that these records (immunization records) are not to be released to anyone except my health insurance company and ONLY for the purposes of releasing funds to pay for the vaccines." She said ok, and we hung up.

Immediately I began to wonder WHY she was calling me. I called the office back and got a hold of Nora and I asked her if there was a problem, and why this issue was coming up. She said that, "The Health Department has sent Dr Chumley a letter stating that their records for Adri Walston were not showing all his immunizations and they wanted us to find out why." (Note: I do not know exactly what the letter said in regards to my oldest child.) I asked Nora what the health department showed and she said that the note stated that Adri had received only 3 doses of X vaccine and 1 dose of Y vaccine. I stated that that was the correct information. She seemed a little confused so I made the comment that the health department is not supposed to have ANY records on my children. I explained to her again that I did not give consent for my children's medical records pertaining to vaccines to be released to anyone and the ONLY way that the health dept. in SA could have a record of Adri's vaccines is by getting that information from the Dr's office. I stated that I was extremely upset about this. I asked her "Where are the consent forms that I signed?" She looked in Adri's file and said that there were no consent forms in his file. I asked where was his vaccine record. She said that they don't keep a record of vaccines given in the office, because the county database does that for them. This is the 2nd time I've had a nurse in SA tell me the same story – that they do not record vaccines given in the child's record because the county has a database that "handles that for them". Another nurse at the same clinic told me this. Nora said she would speak with Dr Chumley.

A few hours later Dr Chumley called me back and explained that the health department had audited her clinic a few weeks ago for vaccine related issues. And when they did, they examined Adri's MEDICAL RECORDS and apparently had cross-referenced his records in her office with the county database. She explained that the letter was simply to make sure that all the records were the same. I stated that I understood that, but based on what she had told me, that that meant the county did have Adri in the database EVEN THOUGH I had discussed this privacy issue with Dr Chumley at length before consenting to vaccines for my children. She said that she was sure she had not sent my consent forms over to the health department. But there is no way for Adri or any of my other children to be in the registry if Dr Chumley's office did not, even if by accident, send the form to the county. I told Dr Chumley I was going to go to the local county immunization clinic and pay for a copy of my child's immunization records. Dr Chumley said that their office would print off the records for me from the county database and I could pick them up from her for free. She was equally appalled that we would have had to pay for these records. (Side note: I find it even more appalling that I would have had to pay \$3 per record. The county creates the database, forces us into the database, harasses us when we want out, illegally obtains the records and THEN forces us to pay for the records???)

Which brings me to my next point.

EVEN IF Dr Chumley's office made an honest mistake (4 times albeit) and did in fact send my children's vaccine administration consent forms to the county for entrance into the registry – whoever physically entered the information into the registry did so illegally since I made it very clear on the consent form that I did NOT give consent to be entered into the registry. (Note, the consent for vaccine administration AND for county and state registry is all one in the same – and parents are not even told that they do NOT have to be a part of either registry!)

Furthermore: I am appalled and horrified that some county official went into my Private Medical Doctor's office and was able to pull my child's medical chart from the files and review his chart with neither my notification or consent. I find this an AGREDIOUS violation of parental rights and medical privacy rights.

My children are on PRIVATE medical insurance. Their vaccines are paid for by private medical insurance. The county has NO rights to ANY of their vaccine records, but moreover – absolutely no rights to review, at will, their entire medical record!

This entire ordeal has been emotionally stressful. It has been overwhelming to say the least.

This entire experience has brought me to the decision that if my Parental Rights regarding my children, and if my children's rights to privacy, are going to be utterly disregarded - then I will not participate in any vaccination program. State funded or private. On principle alone, I will refuse all vaccines simply because of the unethical (and I believe unlawful) practices of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District.

To gut Parental Rights and to revoke a child's right to medical privacy is not only abhorrent, it is flat out UnConstitutional.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept

Health department school nurse harassed me for not vaccinating my children. My son suffered an anaphylactic reaction from a tetanus shot that he received for a superficial laceration. He was hospitalized with internal bleeding and swollen joints. He nearly died.

We experienced verbal harassment in front of groups of persons, including adults and children. Emotional distress from the health department nursing staff.

The anaphylactic reaction my son experienced influenced me to read more about immunizations. I was never told any side effects of the vaccines before they were administered.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
HarassmentCompany: Texas Department of Health  
HarassmentCity: Denton  
HarassmentState: Texas

We took our sons in for check ups and were belittled and badgered by the staff in regards to our childrens' immunizations and our decisions to delay or omit certain vaccines. Both of our sons had surgery early in life. Both our sons had liver problems at birth. We as their parents made a choice to delay immunizing them until their immune systems had recuperated. Since both children did not attend daycare, school, or anything of that nature, we felt we were within our rights to do so. When it came to optional vaccines like Varicella, we declined on grounds that our children had been exposed and had both developed chicken pox. Again we met resistance and insults from the nursing staff, they asked for proof that our kids had indeed had it, then proceeded to tell me my kids could have died. The whole experience was insulting not only to our intelligence but also to our rights as parents. Before the visit was done, they attempted to give both my sons the Varicella shot. I stopped the nurse from doing so, but was furious none the less...

They say there is no link between autism and vaccines, but I can honestly say my son did not exhibit any symptoms of autism before the vaccines. Maybe it was the timing, maybe it was the trigger, maybe all the cars in the parking lot weren't lined up right... I know that the trip was distressing to my children, who saw their parents belittled and opposed. I know it was distressing to us, seeing our wishes mocked and disregarded. The physical treatment of my children was horrible and my oldest son had a bruise for over a month.

I no longer believe anything the state says in regards to children's health.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
HarassmentCompany: Montessori School  
HarassmentCity: Pasadena  
HarassmentState: TX  
HarassmentZip: 77505

After deciding to not vaccinate my 1 year old child due to the vaccine dangers, I got my son's pediatrician to write a letter for the health department. He stated that he agreed with me that vaccination would not be of benefit to my child. The health department came to the Montessori school and said that the letter from my pediatrician would not be enough. I went to the library and found what the law required to allow me to legally protect my child from being assaulted by vaccination. I had to either have the pediatrician say that my son had an illness that rendered his immune system weak, or that I was a member of a religion in which it is our doctrine to avoid vaccination. Therefore, since my child's immune system was (and is) very healthy (he hasn't missed a day of school in years), I decided to write an affidavit stating that I was a member of a religion where it is our doctrine to avoid vaccination. I resent that I have had to lie about my religion in order to protect my child from being assaulted by allopathic health-care that I don't agree with or believe in. Incidentally I've recently heard that the medical (allopathic) health-care system is the 3rd leading cause of death in the U.S. Hmmm...

The above experience, plus ongoing and continuing self education has only strengthened my current position.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
HarassmentCompany: City of Houston Health Department  
HarassmentCity: Houston  
HarassmentState: Texas

While my son was attending a private preschool, he was possibly exposed to Hepatitis A. The school informed me of this possibility and told me that the City of Houston Health Department would be offering immunoglobulin to those who wished to receive it. I contacted my son's doctor to get his advice, and was told that his chances of getting Hepatitis seemed remote, and that it would not be in his best interest to get the shot.

Several days later, I received a call at home from the City of Houston Health Department saying they had noticed that my son had not received the immunoglobulin shot. I responded by telling the woman that we had talked with our doctor, and were following his care advice. She then said " well I see your son hasn't been immunized". I then told her that the only way she could know that was by her reading the Medical Exemption in his file that was perfectly legal.

The woman then told me that she would be talking to her boss about my son. I quickly let her know that she was welcome to do so, however she might want to speak with the supervisor of the lead poisoning prevention program a couple of floors above her, because they knew me very well and could explain to her the problem she was about to create for herself.

I never heard from them again.

This experience was a primary reason for my involvement in making sure we have an opt-in registry. It greatly angered me for a city employee to access my child's record, and begin to threaten to have the city second guess me and my son's doctor. It was clear that she felt she could intimidate me with her position.

When I saw the original registry language, I pictured this scene happening over and over again.

Prior to the registry legislation in 1997, I had worked toward better education about childhood lead poisoning. I had even been called "a wonderful advocate for children" by Dr. David Smith during the '95 session.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
 HarassmentCompany: Ft. Bend County Health Department  
 HarassmentCity: Richmond  
 HarassmentState: TX

I needed to get copies of my daughter's shot records from the Health Department and called them. They advised me that I would need to fill out a waiver, which they would fax to me first. Once I filled that out and returned to them, they would then send my daughter's shot records to me. Within minutes of my phone call, a fax started coming thru and it was my daughter's actual shot records FIRST, then after that fax was received, I then received a 2nd fax which was the waiver. On my daughter's shot records was all our personal information, i.e., address & phone number.

This particular experience has definitely proved to me that the TDH who is obviously already overwhelmed with the caseload that they currently have, and by adding EVERY child in this State to their database for them to try and track is pretty scary.

The thing that really upset me about this particular incident was that I could have been anyone calling into their office and here was my personal information all over these records for anyone to gain access to.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
 HarassmentCompany: Tarrant County Health Northeast  
 HarassmentNames: Nick M. Conway MD  
 HarassmentCity: Bedford  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 76022

Against my better judgement and after enormous pressure and guilt from my husband's family, I agreed to take my 9 month old son to get his first round of vaccinations. I explained to the doctor that neither I nor my siblings had ever been vaccinated. My concern was that he might shed the virus in some way and expose all of us to polio specifically. I was adamant that my son not be given the LIVE polio vaccine for this reason. I explained the situation and my concerns at length and had every reason to believe I had been understood. Once the doctor had given my son the shots, I was told casually that I would need to refrain from kissing him and to not come in contact with his spit or poop for at least two months. Incredulous, I asked why? How could I possibly DO such a thing? I was breast feeding. I was the one who changed his diapers. How could I be expected to NOT KISS my son for 2 months? The doctor told me he might shed polio for about that long and said I must be careful not to become infected.

Despite my efforts, my insistence, and my vulnerability, I was sent home with a child who COULD theoretically give me POLIO.

Over the next 4 days, as my immunized mother took over kiss and diaper duties, I was on the phone with various TX Dept of Health personnel trying to determine what we would be dealing with for two months. I spoke with a series of experts who ultimately had nothing helpful to say but to admit that they DID NOT KNOW if any of us would get polio or not if we came in contact with my child's saliva or poop. It was definitely possible but no one could speculate how likely. They had no idea if I could get it thru nursing and suggested that I might want to switch him to a bottle just to be safe. It was such an unexpected situation for them to consider. They wanted to know WHY the doctor had given my son the LIVE polio vaccine, when he could have given him a dead version...etc. Indeed!

A quarantine was beyond impractical, it would have been devastating to him as most of his caregivers were equally vulnerable. I was not about to stop nursing him "just to be safe." There was nothing to do but continue to care for him as ever and trust our immune systems to protect us. We would just have to wait and see if any of us would end up with polio. Imagine living with the possibility of POLIO hanging over you for several months and this ONLY because of getting a child vaccinated.

Yes, of course. We have refused further vaccinations for our sons. It was proven to me in the course of this experience that the system is completely unprepared for the responsibilities that come with immunizing. Once the virus was in my son and my family faced the real threat of polio we were completely alone. No one even COULD answer our questions, much less give us any assistance. There was nothing to be DONE, no way to FIX it. We were simply left with the raw consequences of following a government mandate and the consequences of a medical industry who's job is done when they put the bandage on. What the doctor did was criminal BUT there is also NO ONE in position to make any of it right, either for my child or my family. We were abandoned to polio by the system that both insists on vaccinations, that vaccinations are safe AND that in the unlikely event of problems everything will be fine.

Deceive me once, shame on YOU.  
Deceive me twice, shame on ME.  
We aren't falling for it again.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
HarassmentCompany: Harris County Public Health Clinic  
HarassmentNames: Unknown  
HarassmentCity: La Porte  
HarassmentState: TX

I took my four month old son in for his four-month DPT shot. I had done some research before he was born, and at two months had chosen to not give him the Pertussis portion of the vaccine (thus he only received a DT). At four months, I no longer had insurance, so went to a public clinic for his vaccines, instead of the doctor's office. The nurse at the clinic told me they could not give just a DT at my request, but only if my doctor instructed them to do so. I did not have the money, at the time, to visit the doctor and request this "note", and did not want to postpone getting his shots either. They reassured me that there would be no problem in giving him the DPT, and so I allowed them to give the shot, going against my best judgement.

The result? My son is now damaged because of this vaccine. Within an hour or two, his leg began to swell and he began to run high fever. He began to cry, which escalated into a high-pitched wail that continued non-stop for more than 24 hours. He did not sleep during that time, and tylenol did nothing to calm him or his pain. I was reassured by the doctor that this was "normal". Later examination by a different doctor resulted in diagnosis of swelling on the brain, which caused him to scream the way he did. Long term damage of this swelling is still not fully known. My son now, while he looks like an ordinary 10-year-old boy, has some extreme difficulties in school and in his emotional stability. He has been diagnosed as borderline Asperger's Syndrome.

I had already done quite a bit of research on immunizations before he was born, which is why I chose to not give him the Pertussis portion of the vaccine. However, after this incident, I began further research, and for awhile selective vaccinated, and now have chosen to completely eliminate all vaccines unless I feel they are extremely necessary. My other two children are healthy, happy, no learning problems, and emotionally stable.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
HarassmentCompany: Local health department

I took my son in the get the Hib vaccine and the tetanus vaccine both of which I had decided to vaccinate him against. When I asked the nurse for only the tetanus, not a DPT she told me that to supply a tetanus without the diphtheria and pertussis was against that law and that she wouldn't do it. When I told her that I would go to my doctor and get it there. She said that my dr would be breaking the law and would get into trouble if she gave my son a tetanus shot without the D and P included. She really harassed me and tried to get me to get the full series after I had made it clear that I wasn't interested. WE ended up leaving and getting the tetanus shot from my dr.

I was really shaken up when I left. I didn't know if she was going to turn my doctor in (even though it wasn't against the law)

This has made me even more stubborn in my beliefs to do what I view is best for my child. It has also made me aware that I need to help educate the people that I am around to the laws regarding vaccinations in my area.

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept

HarassmentCompany: Texas Department of Health - Immunization Tracking System

I have been aware of Texas's Immunization Tracking System since 1997, when, as a Texas legislative employee, I was a part of the staff mandating the state's current opt-in-only requirement. However, it was later when I realized ImmTrac's disdain for individual dissent and its disregard for law as I discovered that my daughter was included in the system and had an ID number attached to her file for future data additions. That made this a personal issue for me.

I take my responsibility seriously, so upon learning this information, I trekked down to the TDH office on 49th Street, only to have my paternity questioned by bureaucrats who - just an hour earlier - had been willing to fax me the information sight unseen. However, in their presence, I was asked to hand over my driver's license in an obvious attempt to intimidate me. Instead of instilling fear, the exchange would have been comedic, absent the seriousness of the situation.

After I told Robert Crider I had no intention of giving him my driver's license, but that I would sign a release form, he said: "We need it to prove you're the father." I said: "That won't prove anything, except you have a copy of my driver's license." Flustered, Mr. Crider responded: "Are you saying you're not the father?" To which I said: "I'm saying you already have more information about my family than you're supposed to have and I'm not giving you anymore."

Frustrated, he quickly huddled with Vicki Cowling to piecemeal a consent form that just 5 minutes earlier had not existed, even though law required it.

In the weeks following this exchange, I did further research and discovered TDH had already accumulated more than 3 million names, half a million coming directly from birth certificate information, and none with the required parental consent.

I attended a Centers for Disease Control meeting in New Orleans in April of 1998 at which representatives from each state's health department, acting as a bureaucratic Magellan by discussing ways to circumnavigate state laws and parental objections.

At this point, I think it should be clarified that I cannot be dismissed as a conspiracy theorist because that would be overly simplistic. Likewise, to do so would be to confer a level of organization, secret-keeping ability, and maneuverability upon a group that has clearly shown itself to be more blatant than covert in its actions.

With that said, I will also inform you that I attended a meeting at TDH in November 1998 at which officials with that agency assured concerned parents that birth certificates would include a tear-off portion for

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parents' consent to be included in the registry. Rather than requiring a mother to make that type of decision following the physical trauma of a multiple-hour labor and delivery, she would tear that portion from the form and mail it in later, if she wanted to grant her consent.

But, like the situation I described earlier, only the wild-eyed imagination of a bad fiction writer could be stranger than TDH's truth. When my youngest daughter was born in June of 1999, I filled out the birth certificate form, which – by the way - was more inquisitive than the long census form sent out in 2000. Contrary to the word of the TDH officials, the form did not include a tear-off section. There was nothing noticeable about requesting consent.

When we were brought the official type form to sign, a box had been checked indicating our consent had been granted for inclusion in ImmTrac. Even though I had been intimately aware of the tactics of some within TDH, I was still caught unaware as I was about to sign the form. My wife noticed the entry, which I brought to the attention of the hospital staffer, who retyped the form for us to sign. While this may simply have been a creative mode of record gathering, it was more evidence that Texas does not have an opt-in system, despite the statures and protestations to the contrary.

On one last personal note, despite the power struggle dos-a-dos, I later learned that my oldest daughter was still included in the registry three years later! I learned this when I requested a withdrawal form, knowing you can't withdraw from something in which you're not included. And, justifying my suspicions, she was still included. Funniest thing is, the form "acknowledged" my right to "withdraw consent." Only in the TDH world in which a driver's license proves paternity can the absence of consent be taken as implicit permission.

So, with all of that said, here are my options to for you to consider:

- \* This system has to be made to comply with current law, not changed to allow violators amnesty.
- \* Enforcement must be carried out to ensure the privacy and safety of parents and their children.
- \* Enforcement must also serve as a deterrent from further violations by TDH on the matter of this registry.

As I conclude, I like to leave you with these thoughts from the director of the Health Law Institute in Boston. She said: "There are three things that are always true when registries are created: One, there will always be more information collected than is need to complet e the task; two, it will always be kept longer than we are told; and, three, it will always be used for purposes other than intended."

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HarassmentCategory: HealthDept  
 HarassmentCompany: Texas Department of Health  
 HarassmentNames: cannot recall his name  
 HarassmentCity: Austin  
 HarassmentState: Texas  
 HarassmentZip: 75056

While doing research on vaccine safety after the birth or our 3rd child, I found out that Texas had an Immunization Tracking Registry. I had heard of efforts to begin a National Immunization Tracking Registry and have serious concerns about it. I am opposed to such registries and view them as intrusive, a threat to privacy, as well as freedom. Therefore, I decided to look into the Texas Registry in more depth. I was relieved to find out that the registry was "opt-in" and that parental consent must be gained before a child was entered into this registry. That relief was short lived! As I read on, I learned that the TDH had illegally helped themselves to confidential portions of hundreds of thousands of birth certificates through another database to get around the legal requirement of having to obtain parental consent and dumped this information into their the registry creating files on these children. This information included personal information, including names, addresses and parents' and the child's Social Security numbers. This was extremely disturbing to learn.

I also learned that there was a tiny box to be checked on birth certificates that had what was considered confusing language about giving consent to participate in this registry. At this point, I was upset, because I do not recall seeing or hearing about such a question or box on our son's birth certificate in May of 1997 and wondered if it had been inappropriately checked. I read claims of hospital clerks filling out birth certificates and consenting for parents without their knowledge. This was a real possibility since the hospital clerk called me on the phone verifying the personal information for the birth certificate and then came by while I was nursing my new baby for my signature.

It was very upsetting reading about the TDH's unethical and illegal abuses along with their motives. After reading this, I knew there was a definite possibility that any of my 3 children could have been included in this registry without my consent. I certainly do not want my children's confidential medical/immunization records and identifying information entered into the states government operated immunization surveillance database.

The decision to contact the TDH to find out if our children was included in the registry was a difficult one for a couple of reasons. First because we had made a difficult decision not to fully immunize our children for medical and religious reasons and secondly because we would have to give our information to the TDH in order for them to check. We felt if they had abused the system before without any penalty, what would stop them from using the information we supplied them.

We finally decided we had to know so I called the TDH. I simply told the man that I wanted to find out if my children had been entered into the registry. He asked me why I wanted to know and why I thought my children were included. He was very defensive.

I told him by law, I have the right to request them to check and see if a any records exist. He again asked me why I thought my children were included and demanded to know this before he would check.

I told him that I had heard that some children had been registered without consent and that I was told there was a section on the birth certificate that gave consent to be included. I told him, I was never told about that box by the hospital clerk nor did I see it and wanted to find out if the children were included since I had never given consent.

He asked me the date of the birth certificate and I told him May of 1997. He told me that there was not such a question or section on those birth certificates and told me the date that questioning began. (I'm sorry I do not recall the date he gave me.) He told me I did not have to be concerned, but he would check anyway.

He then asked me why I would not want my children in the registry. I answered because I did not give consent.

I felt pressured and believe his questions were inappropriate. It made me very anxious.

He then asked me for my name, address, phone number and the children's names and birthdates. He then said he looked in the computer and did not find any records.

I asked him for a written verification that the children were not included and he said he could not provide one.

The conversation ended.

When our 4th child was born in March of 1999, I asked for certain where this question existed on the birth certificate. I wanted to make certain I understood the language so not to mark it inappropriately. When the hospital clerk called my room to go over the personal information, my husband specifically asked her about 19(b). She asked him why he was so concerned about this as she had never had anyone question

her about it. He explained it gave consent to be included in the registry and we wanted to make certain we understood the question and that our choice was documented correctly.

When they brought in the birth certificate, I was once again nursing the baby. This time, my husband and I scoured the document several times to make certain it was marked correctly before signing. We also hoped that the hospital clerk had integrity and would not change our choice.

Because of the mistrust we have for an agency such as the TDH that has blatantly violated the law in the past, we often wonder if we were told the truth. So the question remains, are our children in the registry or not?

The thought that someone could or has placed our confidential medical records into a database without our consent and could have been able to have our physician's office or insurance company forward our medical records without us knowing has been devastating.

There is a definite need for a Conscientious Exemption, as well as, a proper Religious Exemption. At this time the only exemptions that exist are very limiting. Current Texas immunization exemption laws are in violation of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution because they discriminate based on state determined religious affiliations. What gives the state the right to dictate my personal religious beliefs? The answer is it doesn't, that is NOT its function!

Citizens should have the right to make an informed choice without penalty or fear of what might happen to them. We have a fundamental parental rights to decide what is appropriate and safe for our children. We also have a right to keep what is disclosed between us and our doctor private! We must preserve and protect these rights and not let them erode away. I believe that if doctors and insurance companies are forced to release the confidential medical record of a child against the will of a parent, parents will avoid taking their children to the doctor or what and how they communicate the doctor could put the child's health at risk. These are concerns I have.

## Insurance Companies

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HarassmentCategory: InsuranceCompany  
HarassmentCompany: Pediatrician  
HarassmentCity: Spring  
HarassmentState: Texas  
HarassmentZip: 77381

Our pediatrician made us sign a waiver so we would be exempted from the practice's insurance compliance stats. I still haven't been able to get an exemption letter for preschool. Can you help?

\*\*\*\*\*

HarassmentCategory: InsuranceCompany  
HarassmentCompany: PHS Insurance

I am a chiropractic physician. To become a provider for PHS insurance, they informed me that I couldn't discuss vaccinations with my patients or I would be denied access to their panel.

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## Other

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HarassmentOther: Physical Therapy  
 HarassmentCompany: Our Children's House at Baylor- Allen  
 HarassmentCity: Allen  
 HarassmentState: TX  
 HarassmentZip: 75002

In Jan my 4 yr son was referred to PT so we could learn some exercises to strengthen the muscles around his knee. When I received the paperwork last week it had several pages of paperwork, with two prominent highlights regarding vaccination requirements. The cover letter said that if I did not bring all records, including shot records we would not be treated. When I called them to tell them that my son did not have records because we were delaying vaccinations the person I talked to said that I would have to get a medical exception from a doctor. Then I would have to fax the exemption letter to the PT office so that they could forward the exemption to the Board at Baylor to see if they would APPROVE my unvaccinated son for PT treatment.

I cancelled his appt today for a few reasons. First, our doctor will not give a medical exception because our son doesn't meet the criteria for that. I was not given the option of presenting a religious exception. I'm also aware that Baylor is a strong believer in immunization, which would quite possibly put me in a very stressful situation especially if I have to "fight" to get them allow my son to enter the facility even with his lack of shots and no medical exception. The strong possibility of a confrontation with the staff is more than I can deal with right now and could make any visits unpleasant. We could be treated differently, and I base that on previous personal experiences in medical settings. I understand that a child who is immune compromised (maybe it was the shots!) could be nearby but I don't take my son places when he is feeling well anyway. So instead of taking on a messy situation and get hassled, I'm just going to work with my son on our own. Luckily his issue is very minor and he will continue to outgrow it so therapy was just a complimentary thing.

I'm just tired of being hassled in whatever degree. I just continue to see how controlling the medical community is and how they seem to enjoy wielding their power. I find it strange that my son is recommended for a health related treatment and that the provider would say "no, can't help you because you aren't immunized". Shot status should be irrelevant when someone needs treatment.

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HarassmentOther: magazine article  
 City: Houston  
 State: Texas  
 Zip: 77044

This one is a little different, but is typical of the treatment non-vaccinating parents receive...In the April 2003 issue of Parents magazine, in the Doctor On Call by Laura Nathanson, M.D. article, a parent wrote in very concerned about friends who do not vaccinate their children. The person writing in to Dr Nathanson is concerned that these children could pass a dangerous disease on to her kids. Dr Nathanson replied by saying, "Your friends are jeopardizing not only their own children's health but also the health of those around them." She went on to say, "If your friend's unimmunized children catch a disease, there is a small but very real chance they could spread it to your kids (no vaccine is 100% effective in every individual)." So now we have doctors who write articles in magazines telling parents to keep their kids away from unvaccinated children!!! I suppose this doctor feels that only vaccinated kids are safe to play with, even though the doctor admits that vaccinated children can also catch these diseases and pass it on to other vaccinated children??? This is the exact reason I don't care for my child's immunization record to be public knowledge!

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HarassmentOther: Boy Scouts of America  
 HarassmentCompany: National Boy Scouts  
 HarassmentNames: Doctors in charge of Jamboree  
 City: Austin  
 State: TX  
 Zip: 78754

We signed our son up for National Jamboree to go with a Texas contingent. We knew he would need the normal physical and the preliminary application required basic immunization and suggested a hepB (optional). When we received the final information after working hard to find the extra money for him to go, we found on the information that they were requiring a series of the hepB and highly encouraging (close to requiring) the Lyme disease vaccine(which was very controversial then and not available now). There wasn't even time to get the series before they left even if we agreed the vaccines were necessary or an asset to his health which we didn't. It took many phone calls, e-mails, and much stress and yet we never found out why and who changed the rules. Whether our son would be allowed to go after putting in several months of training and many extra expenses became the next concern. The answer came down to that we would take our chances sending him no one would make a decision until he got to Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia and they might tell us to arrange a flight home for him. It wasn't a very comfortable position for us or his leaders.

There was much emotional stress for us and it challenged the volunteer scout leaders to have to do extra research to find out the people to contact. We have been involved in Boy Scouts for many years and until this incident have always felt they encourage families to make good, healthy, loving, decisions on behalf of their children. In the past, I have been the one to make the final decisions for my child's healthcare. I am ultimately responsible for his care so let me make the choices. I felt this was being taken away from by someone that I was not allowed to face.

It seems the vaccine companies and the government agencies are trying to make it ever more difficult for me to use my best judgment to provide the best healthcare for my child. They seem to want to tie every experience that I could offer my child to needing more and more vaccines not just the tried and known ones but also the experimental ones. This offends me very much. What happened to my rights to choose to make an informed decision about the safety and necessity of vaccines for my child?

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HarassmentOther: students  
 HarassmentNames: classmates  
 HarassmentCity: Dallas  
 HarassmentState: TX

I became ill in the fall of my sixth grade year from the flu shot. My symptoms caused me not to be able to write, walk, see, or hear at random times. This meant that one day I looked totally normal to my peers and the next day my mom was rolling me in to school in the wheelchair. I was a happy kid. I was always smiling and laughing. I knew that I was sick, but I did not let it affect me in any way. In everything but my physical capabilities I acted like I always had. My sixth grade class was divided into two classes and you basically did everything with the kids in your class. This caused the students in the other class to not really know what was going on since they were not seeing what was happening every day. Because my illness was sporadic, some students in the other class did not believe me; they thought I was making the entire thing up to get attention or something like that. I was not a popular kid in school but I had my friends, I knew who I was, and I was happy and content. The other kids did not do a lot, but I remember a few times where they told me or my friends that they thought that I was making it up just for the attention.

I remember one other incident in seventh grade. I was at a new school then because we graduated in sixth grade, but a lot of us went to the same school for seventh and eighth grade. I remember one day

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my hearing was getting bad so I had my friend tell the teacher so that I could go to the infirmary and call my mom. One of the kids that had been in the other class in sixth grade made fun of me, saying that I was making it up - had called out my name to see if I would hear him, which I did, because I was not totally deaf, it was just getting bad and painful. He then proceeded to laugh and got some of the other kids in on it too. That was the only incident in seventh grade where I actually heard them making fun of me, but I guess if I heard it that time that there were things being said behind my back.

There was not a lot of harm from it. The school believed me and my friends believed me and I was never one to care what other kids thought, but it still left a lasting impression on me that some of the kids that I had grown up with through school could think that I was making up the pain and the inability to walk or write just to get attention. It kind a hurts to think that your fellow classmates are talking behind your back saying that your making the whole thing up, but I had my friends, and I knew the truth, so that's all that really matters when you come right down to it. It's just sad I suppose to think that people would think you would be making up all of the pain, doctor appointments, and all the worry and everything else that goes into having a disease that the medical community is fighting against.

As I said when I testified against SB 1237 in 2001, and in a paper that I just wrote for my english class as a freshman in college - seven years after it all began - I do not believe that immunizations are bad. We need vaccines, but some people should be able to say that they do not want their children to receive them, whether it's religion, medical, or conscience. Doctors and drug companies shouldn't be pushing mass vaccinations and the national registry so hard, since what it is, is that it all boils down to money.

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HarassmentOther: The State of Texas  
 HarassmentCompany: The State of Texas  
 HarassmentNames: HB 1921  
 HarassmentCity: Austin  
 HarassmentState: Texas

I am a concerned parent asking for you NOT to support HB 1921. It is not the immunization record registry that I oppose. It is the fact that I as a parent have my rights taken away. It is my duty to protect my children. This legislation is threatening my rights, and because I am a parent of an autistic child, I want to have the legal right to make the vaccination decisions I feel are necessary to protect my children. I trusted and put faith in this State to make vaccination decisions and abided by the spirit of the law. Because I followed the State mandates and was never given information on the vaccine ingredients or risks, my son's condition was worsened. I wish I would have known then what the tragic affects of vaccinating my son with vaccines containing neurotoxic metals would have been on his life. If I would have been given the right to make an educated choice, his life would be different. And now the State is threatening to take that very right away.

The consequence is if HB1921 passes then all my children's private records will be available on a database. What security measures will be taken?? Will my child be protected? Look at the recent event at University of Texas. Students identities and faculty identities were stolen. Parents have not only the right, but the obligation to protect their children. How can you take this right away? My disabled son would be an easy target for identity theft. The Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) exists because of the importance to protect education records. What will protect the medical records? The tracking system will enable permanent records to exist that may be utilized for uncertain purposes in the future. There have already been instances of improper protocol regarding the current TDH registry. Instances include illegal records being entered from birth certificates without parental consent, in addition to parents social security numbers residing within the database. In fact, one legislative staff member, who actually worked on the legislation that created the TDH registry, learned his children were being tracked by the database without his permission. I feel the HB1921 is a violation of our constitutional rights.

Whether a child is injured from a disease or a vaccine, it is the parent and the child who has to live with the consequences. In addition, the effects of vaccinations places a long term burden on the healthcare system since there are individuals who are not capable of self-sufficiency with long-term health problems.

As parents we all have hopes and dreams for our children. Please do not take that away from me and other families to have the right to a choice about immunizations and the right to privacy about medical records and immunizations. It can make a difference in my children's lives and in those of others.

I have no fancy titles to put below my name. I am an ordinary citizen that abides the law and gives back to my community on a daily basis. I am just an ordinary citizen with an extraordinary child. I must protect his rights as he has no voice. I am his voice. Please listen.

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HarassmentOther: Governor Keating and his wife  
HarassmentDate: during 1998  
HarassmentCompany: on my television  
HarassmentNames: Governor Keating and his wife  
HarassmentCity: OKC  
HarassmentState: Oklahoma

During the first 6months of my son's life he was very sick and it seemed as though he would get worse after each vaccination series.

I was told repeatedly by many that vaccines were safe and that it was the law to vaccinate your child and that I just needed to stop worrying!

Governor Keating and his wife at that time were on the TV at least once every two hours running a Public Service Type Announcement (a TV AD) about how it was state law to vaccinate your child and how the state could turn you over to Child Protective Services for neglect and jail time could be issued if you did NOT vaccinate your child.

Not once did they mention that you as the parent have a right or a choice not to vaccinate your child!!!

This TV ad put undo pressure on me, because my mommy/gut intuition was telling me that the vaccines were hurting my child, BUT when you see the Governor of your state on TV telling you that it is your responsibility and the law to vaccinate and if you don't you may go to jail, Well-- then "WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSE TO DO?"

We have a very difficult time in trusting what our government officials tell us or recommend.

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HarassmentOther: Social security administration  
HarassmentCompany: social security administration  
HarassmentCity: Ashtabula  
HarassmentState: OH  
HarassmentZip: 44004

My son was born in TX, December 2001, we never received his social security card in the mail. We have since moved to the state of OH. I was able to call our local SSA and get his SS# over the phone, however when I went to the SSA office in person to apply for a replacement card (assuming my son's original card had been lost in the mail), I was told the only acceptable proof of ID would be a vaccine record. (This is in a state that allows for philosophical exemptions from vaccination!)

I have yet to determine how I will be able to get a social security card for my unvaccinated son.