
ATTN: TEXAS SENATE

MEET THE VICTIMS – OPPOSE HB 1316

Issue 1

May 16, 2005

My Family and the Hepatitis A Vaccine

The Worst Choice of my Life

By William Stewart

County: Travis

Senator: Jeff Wentworth

Representative: Elliott Naishtat

On March 26, 2002, I made one of the worst choices of my life. I took both of my boys to the HMO to get a two year well child checkup for the little one and a physical for summer baseball camp for the older one. Our lives changed forever.

After both boys were pronounced fit, healthy and normal, the nurse appeared with two syringes and said, “this isn’t mandatory, but we recommend it.” It was the Hepatitis-A immunization. I heard the word “hepatitis” and agreed on the spur of the moment. Within 12 hours, William Andres, our then two year old, was showing some symptoms that at the time we didn’t even know were symptoms. Within five days, he had developed a tremor in his limbs and could no longer walk straight. We rushed him back to the Doctor’s office and were immediately referred to a prominent pediatric neurologist. That was just the beginning.

What followed were days and weeks and months of tests and evaluations and attempts at treatment. Will’s condition kept deteriorating the whole time. Within three months he could no longer walk and had lost his ability to speak. The diagnosis: acute cerebellar ataxia. If you know a two year old child, you should try to imagine the frustration and the agony of the situation. Will’s condition, such a polite word, was the result of the Hep-A vaccine. It had triggered an auto-immune response which caused his immune system to offer insult to his cerebellum. Three years later, we are still dealing with the consequences and Will may never be the same as he might have been without the immunization. If

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William Andres Stewart-Sotello had a medically documented life-altering vaccine injury from the Hepatitis-A vaccine. HB 1316 would mandate it for all kids in daycare in Texas.

HB 1316 mandates that Texas babies and children in daycare be subjected to 6 more shots: 2 vaccine doses for Hepatitis A virus and 4 vaccine doses for Pneumococcal bacteria.

Private insurance companies would be mandated to provide first-dollar coverage for these 6 shots increasing the number of shots required for use and coverage in daycare from 18 to 24!

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Author William Stewart holding his Hep-A vaccine-injured son.

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he had actually contracted Hepatitis-A he would have recovered within a week or two.

The lawmakers of the State of Texas have a decision to make. I cannot undo what I have done, but the Texas Legislature can act to take care of the children in this state. Don't be duped by drug company lobbying and succumb to a marketing campaign. Drugs and vaccines are a business and that doesn't always mean completely truthful information; look at VIOXX. A little research will prove to you that Hep-A is not a life threatening disease; anyone who allegedly dies from Hep-A had a lot of other problems and contributing conditions. Please allow parents the right to make their own decision on this vaccine. We have the right to expect vaccines to be safe, effective and NECESSARY. One out of three is not good enough for the children of Texas. If you even have a single doubt that this vaccine may cause unnecessary risks for children, PLEASE err on the side of caution and don't make this vaccine mandatory. – William Stewart

Did you know that ...

- ...Hepatitis A vaccine is already available without the mandate required in HB 1316 to any parent who wants it for their child in Texas with coverage for those who can't afford it provided by Medicaid, CHIP, state or federal Vaccines for Children Program or an appropriation that has no contingency rider for the passage of this bill.
- ...Hepatitis A virus is not a problem in daycare settings – according to the CDC only 2% of all cases of Hepatitis A are from children or providers in day care settings.
- ...Hepatitis A vaccine is manufactured using cell lines derived from aborted fetal cells (MRC5) and that residual MRC5 cellular proteins are present in the final vaccine injected into babies and children. (see vaccine package insert)
- ...the fiscal note shows that this bill will **cost the state over \$15 million dollars** over the next 5 years!
- ...the private sector provider wholesale cost for the required 2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine is almost \$60 and the required 4 doses of Pneumococcal vaccine is over \$260 with **patient retail prices over \$600 for all 6 doses!**

THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO SPEND THIS MONEY ON WITHOUT FORCING FAMILIES AND INSURERS TO SPEND IT ON THIS! LET THEM DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES.

Parents Requesting Open Vaccine Education

www.vaccineinfo.net

prove@vaccineinfo.net

P.O. Box 91566, Austin, TX 78709-1566

PROVE provides information on vaccines, and immunization policies and practices that affect the children and adults of Texas. Our mission is to prevent vaccine injury and death and to promote and protect the right of every person to make informed independent vaccination decisions for themselves and their family. PROVE represents thousands of members concerned about the health and safety of their children and families.