



Sensible Action For Ending Mercury-Induced
Neurological Disorders

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SafeMinds Applauds Schwarzenegger's Signature On New Vaccine Law Looks to Next Week's Hearing on National Legislation

Washington, D.C.—SafeMinds—America's leading scientific organization investigating the risks that mercury-containing medical products pose to children—applauds California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for Tuesday's signing of a new law, introduced by Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, banning mercury containing vaccines from being given to children or pregnant women. California is the second state to pass such legislation since May.

"Two states down, forty-eight to go," said Sallie Bernard, Executive Director of SafeMinds. *"We're pleased that SafeMinds' research and efforts was able to support the yeoman's effort that went in to getting this law passed to protect California's children from the devastating effects of mercury in vaccines, and turning the tide on that state's share of the autism epidemic."*

Bernard is commenting on five years of SafeMinds' investigations documenting a link between thimerosal, a mercury-laden preservative used in many vaccines, and neurodevelopmental injuries, including autism. *"The American public has lost trust in the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) commitment to protect our children from mercury injury and feels forced to turn to legislators to ensure this protection. Five years of HHS foot dragging since it announced the need to phase out thimerosal's use in vaccines has done little to protect us in the face of yet another flu season with vaccines still containing mercury,"* said Bernard. *"Hopefully HHS and its relevant agencies will be called upon to provide answers to their failure of duty at next week's hearing."*

Bernard refers to a hearing Tuesday, October 5, 2004 chaired by Congressman Ralph Regula (R-OH) in the US House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies to review the mercury-flu vaccine issue and the science supporting the passage of HR 4169, "The Mercury Free Vaccine Act of 2004," introduced by Congressman David Weldon, MD (R-FL) and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) with 45 cosponsors. *"SafeMinds is pleased that the Subcommittee is reviewing the need to ban this neurotoxin, and that our funding provided research seen as integral to the discussion,"* concluded Bernard.

For a full review of research evidence on the neurotoxic effects of thimerosal, including the recently released report, "A Brief Analysis of Recent Efforts in Medical Mercury Induced Neurological and Autism Spectrum Disorders," visit www.safeminds.org.

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