



Sensible Action For Ending Mercury-Induced
Neurological Disorders

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9695

Friday, April 23, 2004

CONTACT: Joe Giganti, 703-928-

Joe@VeritasMediaGroup.com

***ABC's Primetime Live* Report on Autism: Yellow Journalism At It's Worst**

SafeMinds Calls Upon ABC News to Make On-Air Correction; 'Investigative' Report Appears to Lack Even Most Basic Facts

Washington, D.C.— SafeMinds—America's leading scientific organization investigating the risks that mercury-containing medical products pose to our children—is outraged by the biased comments made in last night's *Primetime Live Thursday* story, "Out of Darkness," that profiled a family with three autistic children. When describing the potential causes of autism, *Primetime* reporter Elizabeth Vargas stated matter-of-factly that at one time vaccines containing Thimerosal were suspected of being a cause of childhood autism, but "now doctors don't think so."

"This is not only not true, but *Primetime's* assertion flies in the face of the best current research being performed by the recognized experts in this field," stated Lyn Redwood, RN, MSN, NP, president of SafeMinds. At a February 2004 meeting of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Vaccine Safety Committee, a majority of renowned experts offered their research from the past decade, which continues to show a strong link between Thimerosal-containing vaccines and neurological injury like America's autism epidemic in children.

"*Primetime's* claim that their story was an 'investigative' report would have been far more believable if it appeared they had even attempted to present the whole story," continued Redwood. **"They make the claim that experts do not think that mercury-containing vaccines are a risk to our children when just last week a well-known, highly respected medical doctor—Rep. Dave Weldon, M.D. (R-Fla.)— submitted the bi-partisan bill, HR.4169, to the U.S. Congress. This bill calls for the removal of Thimerosal from vaccines specifically because of the threat it represents to the health of America's children."** Dr. Weldon's bill, cosponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), is in answer to the CDC and FDA's repeated failure to take formal action on their own recommendations to prevent the potential of vaccine-induced neurological injury.

"We are amazed that a respected hard news operation like ABC's *Primetime Live* appears to have failed to check their facts before making such a blatant misstatement," Redwood said. **"Their mistake has the effect of misleading countless audience members on the very real threat that Thimerosal-containing vaccines pose to their children. We**



Sensible Action For Ending Mercury-Induced
Neurological Disorders

therefore call upon ABC News to make an on-air correction to this glaring oversight.”
For more information, visit www.safeminds.org.

-30-