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**BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO BAN MERCURY-BASED  
VACCINE PRESERVATIVE**

***SafeMinds Urges Support for HR 881  
“Mercury-Free Vaccines Act of 2005”***

**Washington, DC**— SafeMinds announced today that it wholeheartedly endorses HR 881. According to Sallie Bernard, Executive Director, “since 1999, SafeMinds has fought to get mercury, a known neurotoxin, out of vaccines, especially those given to children. This legislation will achieve this goal. SafeMinds appreciates the leadership that Representatives Dave Weldon, MD and Caroline Maloney have taken in introducing a bill to assure the removal of mercury from all vaccines. All scientific research points to the fact mercury exposure has the potential to alter brain and immune function, especially in the unborn and the very young.”

HR 881, the “Mercury-Free Vaccine Act of 2005” will protect future generations of children from unnecessary exposure to mercury through immunizations. SafeMinds is the nation’s leading organization fighting to rid mercury from all medicines and promoting treatment research for those already injured.

Specifically, HR 881 prohibits children under the age of three and pregnant women from receiving flu vaccines that contain more than one microgram of mercury beginning in the 2006-2007 flu season; the following year the age for children will be raised to six. This cap on the maximum acceptable amount of mercury will be applied to all vaccines including childhood, pediatric, adolescent and adult by 2009. Finally, this legislation would pressure the CDC to actively discourage any medical professional from administering vaccines that contain mercury-based preservatives. Flu vaccines without mercury are widely available in other developed countries, including Canada, Europe, and Australia.

“Our bill sets into place a law giving vaccine manufacturers and public health officials a realistic but firm timetable for elimination of mercury in this country,” said Representative Dave Weldon.

SafeMinds encourages all Members of Congress, health professionals, industry, and the public health community to endorse this legislation and work to ensure its rapid enactment into law.

For more information about SafeMinds go to: [www.safeminds.org](http://www.safeminds.org)

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