

Good morning committee members. I'd to address concerns of conflict of interest regarding this proposed bill and those bringing it forth.

Majority Leader Matt Ritter's ties to Boehringer Ingelheim will benefit his Employer Shipman and Goodwin as well as his Father's Employer Brown Rudnick if his Vaccine Legislation Passes. Majority Leader Ritter is a partner at Shipman and Goodwin. One of Shipman's many areas of practice is "Life Sciences" and according to their website includes working with "special counsel on FDA regulatory approvals", "Intellectual property and trade secrets, "Research, development, and commercialization of products and services"

https://www.shipmangoodwin.com/life_sciences

<https://www.humanvaccinesproject.org/about-us/partners/>

Shipman and Goodwin represents pharmaceutical giant and Ridgefield-based Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) and recently successfully defended them against a major case alleging their blood-thinning drug Pradaxa caused severe internal bleeding in said plaintiff.

<https://www.law.com/ctlawtribune/2018/10/08/covington-shipman-goodwin-prevail-in-another-defense-of-pradaxa/?slreturn=20190412220934>

Rep. Ritter is attempting to overturn the religious exemption for vaccines used by 1.4% of Connecticut schoolchildren. He is doing this at the same time that his firm's client Boehringer Ingelheim is attempting to enter the human vaccine market with three new vaccines, including a novel flu vaccine for immunocompromised individuals.

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00783380?term=Boehringer+Ingelheim&cond=vaccine&rank=3>

The flu vaccine is recommended for all children aged 6 months and above and required for entry to Connecticut daycares. Children do not mount as robust of an immune response to vaccines as adults do. Could BI's new flu vaccine be the answer to suboptimal influenza protection in young children? Will BI develop additional vaccines that could eventually be mandated for school attendance?

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00783380?term=Boehringer+Ingelheim&cond=vaccine&rank=3>

BI is also a partner of the Human Vaccines Project⁶, which lists veteran vaccinologist and rubella vaccine developer Stanley Plotkin MD as a board member.

<https://www.humanvaccinesproject.org/about-us/board-and-management/>

Will legal services provided by Shipman and Goodwin help bring BI's human vaccines to market and result in a large revenue stream for the firm?

In addition, Rep. Ritter's father, Thomas Ritter, is a partner at Brown Rudnick, a law and lobbying firm, which also represents Boehringer Ingelheim and the Healthcare Distribution

Alliance which describes itself as “the national organization representing primary pharmaceutical distributors.”

<https://www.ibtimes.com/political-capital/why-are-drug-prices-going-democratic-power-players-help-pharmaceutical-industry>

While Boehringer Ingelheim is entering the human vaccine market it is also developing new drugs to treat autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases. Autoimmune diseases affect an estimated 50 million Americans and the NIH estimates their related health care cost to be approximately \$100 billion annually.⁹ Three of the top six best-selling prescription drugs in 2015 were biologics used to treat autoimmune disorders. In 2015, spending on drugs for autoimmune disorders accounted for 20% of all specialty drug spending.

Dr. Yehuda Shoenfeld, an internationally-recognized researcher on autoimmunity and its relationship to vaccines has published that “there are many reports that describe post vaccination induced autoimmunity [and] strongly suggest that vaccines can induce autoimmunity”.

<https://www.managedcaremag.com/archives/2016/7/disease-burden-most-common-autoimmune-diseases>
<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03164772?term=Boehringer+Ingelheim&cond=vaccine&rank=4>
<https://www.aarda.org/news-information/statistics/#1488234386508-a9560084-9b69>

Are pharmaceutical companies like Boehringer Ingelheim profiting off vaccines directly and then indirectly with drugs for autoimmune diseases? BI is investing heavily into research into immunomodulating drugs and biologics to treat autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases. They are collaborating with Yale.

<https://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com/press-release/boehringer-ingelheim-and-yale-university-collaborate-investigate-novel-immunotherapy>

Their new drug Risankizumab, a joint effort with Abbvie (maker of blockbuster biologic Humira), will likely be the most expensive biologic on the market and is one of the “top 5 drugs to watch in 2019” for investors.

<https://www.pharmalive.com/annual-report-2019-top-10-pipelines-to-watch/>

Can Majority Leader Ritter remain objective with legislation that benefits vaccine manufacturers when Shipman and Goodwin and Brown Rudnick receive massive profits by representing Boehringer Ingelheim and other pharmaceutical companies? Is he a neutral party as he attempts to mandate vaccines on a small minority of Connecticut children with religious objections? Or do the above connections to vaccine manufacturers constitute a conflict of interest?

Representative Liz Linehan’s promotion of vaccine legislation will benefit her Husband’s Employer Boehringer Ingelheim and vaccine development at the Yale Lab where her Sister-In-Law Works. Representative Linehan’s husband, Brian Linehan, has been employed by

Boehringer Ingelheim in Ridgefield, CT for 16 years and currently works there as a research scientist.

Rep. Linehan has stated on Facebook that her husband does not work on vaccine development and “makes absolutely zero dollars from the sales of use of vaccines” (see screenshot). She also incorrectly states that Boehringer Ingelheim does not make human vaccines.



Liz Linehan

My husband is a research scientist who makes absolutely zero dollars from the sale or use of vaccines. He doesn't work on vaccines. His company does not even make human vaccines. I have never received one single dollar from pharmaceutical lobbyists. I participate in the citizen elections fund which prohibits special interest money. My sister in law is a microbiologist who is developing a vaccine for herpes at Yale, which will be HUGE when they succeed.

There you go. I'm an open book.

1b Like Reply



However, Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) has mentioned above in Ritter's case, BI is indeed heavily vested in vaccines as it relates to school aged children.

Even if Brian Linehan is not directly involved in vaccine research and development at BI, his employer is heavily investing in vaccines and will likely receive substantial profits from future FDA approved products, particularly if they are mandated for school attendance.

Is Brian Linehan involved in Boehringer Ingelheim's biologic and immunomodulatory division? Is he involved in their new drug Risankizumab, which will likely provide BI with massive profits? In addition to her family connections to Boehringer Ingelheim, Rep. Linehan's sister-in-law, Melissa Linehan, is a microbiologist and research associate in the lab of Dr. Akiko Iwasaki at Yale University that is focused on developing a vaccine for Herpes Simplex viruses (HSV).¹² Healthcare costs for genital herpes in the United States are estimated at \$984 million annually.¹

<https://medicine.yale.edu/lab/iwasaki/>

<https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/comment/abbvie-risankizumab-uptake-caveats-despite-anticipated-approvals/>

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/26380062> The estimated economic burden of genital herpes in the United States An analysis using two costing approaches

Could a HSV vaccine developed by Dr. Iwasaki and Melissa Linehan eventually be added to the list of recommended childhood vaccines, like the Gardasil vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV) currently is?

HB 7199 was proposed in Connecticut this session to mandate the HPV vaccine Gardasil for 9th graders.¹⁵ Could a vaccine for HSV, developed by Dr Iwasaki and Melissa Linehan, be mandated in the future and financially benefit Rep. Linehan's family?

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB07199&which_year=2019

Is Representative Linehan a neutral party as she attempts to mandate vaccines on a small minority of Connecticut children with religious objections? Or do her family connections to vaccine developers constitute a conflict of interest as she attempts to pass a bill that would repeal the religious exemption to vaccination currently used by 1.4% of Connecticut schoolchildren?

Many thanks for your time, integrity and truly listening to the matter at hand and all facts.

Amie Bentley