

I am a practicing Catholic with a strong faith in God. I'm also a clinical social worker with a degree from Columbia University and have voted Democrat my whole life. I'm speaking today to a room full of fellow intelligent, rational people. You wouldn't have achieved what you have, if that were not the case. We understand why you might have come to believe that vaccines are safe and effective. The FDA, the CDC, as well as pharmaceutical companies, have stated the "science" proves they are safe and effective. Yet they have gone to great lengths to show us only what they wanted us to see in hopes we would just rely on and trust in their expertise and their claims on having done the research.

I'm not a scientist; I assume most of you are not as well. If they said they did the study, I would assume they did, not that they were only telling a half truth.

This is, after all, the United States of America where we have democracy and can trust our government officials, right? Does that resonate with you Democrats in the era of Trump, trust in our officials; they don't lie? They don't have self interests?

We have been lied to before by the pharmaceutical industry about Fen Phen, Vioxx, opioids, etc. Why should we trust them with liability-free vaccines?

Are you aware that the CDC and FDA are staffed with former pharmaceutical employees and vice versa? Does that sound like a conflict of interest to you that our agencies in charge of protecting us are also on the side of profiting from the very products they say are safe?

Would you be surprised, as I was, to learn that vaccines are not studied in double blind placebo controlled studies? I had assumed when they said they were studied, that they used the same gold standard that they apply to all drugs.

The FDA requires new drugs to go through 4 phases of clinical trials, lasting a total of several years. Enbrel, for example, was safety reviewed for 6.6 yrs and that's a drug for adults. So why then, just for example, was the Hep B Vaccine, which a newborn receives on its 1st day of life, licensed after just 5 days of clinical trials? Dr Stanley Plotkin was asked

1. Is five days long enough to detect adverse reactions that occur after five days?

Plotkin: No.

1. Is five days long enough to detect any neurological disorder that arose from the vaccine after five days?

Plotkin: No.

So aside from flawed studies, conflicts of interest, and bending the truth, actual science is based on questioning what we know now. Science is always evolving, which is why we know the earth is not flat. We have to maintain the Democratic right to ask questions and expand our knowledge. What you are voting on here is ending that right and allowing profiteers to continue to take advantage of our fears as parents unchecked.

The God I believe in does not sanction me risking my child's life for the sake of anybody else's. And the demand to do so against my will is certainly not democratic. No person is more important than the next. And no one will ever convince me God is ok with someone giving my child products deemed by Congress and the Supreme Court to be "unavoidably unsafe".

Erin A.