

Dear Esteemed Legislators,

I have one daughter who is now three years old. When she was born we listened to all the parenting advice. We knew breastmilk was best, so even though we had a hard time, my wife would pump, and I would syringe feed our daughter through a tiny tube taped to my finger because that was the only way I could get milk into her. My point is, we did everything we could to protect her. So, of course we listened to the advice and vaccinated.

After each round of vaccinations, our daughter would cry inconsolably for hours. Our daughter then developed eczema immediately following another round of vaccines and developed other skin issues. We spoke to our pediatrician. "It's normal", "It can't be related to the vaccines", "It's just a coincidence", "There's no long-term harm". My wife was concerned, but I believed the doctors.

Every single visit was the same, but the symptoms would get worse. My wife was a wreck and the pediatricians told us it's nothing to worry about. One time was different, however. This time – in addition to the eczema and crying -- our beautiful daughter who was blossoming in every way developed an eye droop. Overnight her face changed. She would open her eyes so wide, and you could see the bluest, most wonderful eyes looking back at you. After that round of vaccines, however, one eye didn't open as wide anymore. It distinctly covered part of her cornea, almost down to the pupil. It was devastating. We went to the pediatricians and got the same answers. "Nope, definitely not the vaccines." "Just a coincidence". We went to a specialist who had no idea. Then another and another. My wife started questioning whether it could be from the vaccines.

I was still unconvinced and honestly, I didn't want to believe it. I believed the science. I believe IN science. I was brought up highly educated. I went to Yale and studied math. I work at a competitive finance job where statistics are important. I understand statistics. I didn't want to think vaccines could do this. And of course, I didn't want to think a decision I made could have done this to my daughter. So, I figured it'd be easy. I'd read the science, find some evidence to convince my wife and we could move on to finding the real cause.

I just couldn't find the evidence. I read every original source I could find. I read every single study that the CDC uses in support of vaccines. I read every book by Paul Offit – the number one proponent of vaccines. I compiled detailed spreadsheets of what I found. I read the vaccine inserts and pre-licensure disclosures. I watched documentaries. I went to conferences and events. I met with other concerned parents.

In the end, I couldn't find the evidence. I expected to find so much, and instead I found so little. So many of the studies are ancient – from a time when the vaccine schedule was grossly different and the environment less polluted. They have unbelievably small samples, and still show lots of complications. They don't compare even individual vaccines to good controls let alone control for the other vaccines every child in these studies gets. I could go on. There's tons of easily accessible facts on the topics if you're willing to listen. I'll leave you with just a few points.

- Vaccines have not been studied for their connection to autism. Only a single vaccine out of the dozens has.
- Vaccine studies don't use proper control groups. They compare kids who get vaccines to kids who get different or more vaccines.

- The whole vaccine schedule has never been tested against a control. Each time a vaccine is added, it's tested as an addition to the entire schedule. So small problems that accumulate from multiple vaccines and a constant expansion of the schedule can never be found.
- Vaccine scientists will tell you how difficult it is to do proper human trials. It's nearly impossible they will tell you. But in the same breath, they will tell you that the vaccine studies are air tight and to inject your child with 72 doses.
- Paul Offit's books go through multiple cases of bad vaccines. Vaccines that killed people. Vaccines that actually gave people polio. He wants to reassure you that bad vaccines get caught. Unfortunately, a vaccine has to be uniquely terrible to be caught. If it's just as dangerous as all the rest, or only causes problems in accumulation, it can't and won't be caught.

Unfortunately, it doesn't end there. When my wife and I brought these concerns up with our pediatrician we were bullied. They refused to discuss it and threatened to kick us out of the practice for even bringing it up. Our pediatrician never reported our multiple vaccine events. They wouldn't discuss the science. Then they kicked us out of the practice without even a conversation. And this story is not unique. Ask any parent of a vaccine injured child and you'll hear similar stories.

I bring this story to you today because the religious exemption is our only hope. We've tried to get a medical exemption, but every physician and pediatrician that we talk to is afraid. Even sympathetic pediatricians won't discuss it for fear of losing their licenses. And it's not just us. It's thousands of parents with legitimate medical issues. Medical exemptions don't exist. And now with the religious exemption under attack out of fear, misunderstanding, even that is at risk.

I implore you to maintain the religious exemption and stop demonizing individuals' medical decisions. I was the protector of my family and I failed my daughter. You're the protector of the public. Please don't fail us by removing our only option for making our own medical decisions.

Thank you,

Ian Cadieu

Darien, CT