



March 5th, 2019

Senate Hearing: Vaccines Save Lives. What is Driving Preventable Disease Outbreaks?

What is Really Driving This Hearing

Think about it – when was the last time that there were hearings in both the House and the Senate on the same topic within 6 days of each other? This is a coordinated effort by pharmaceutical industry PR and astroturf organizations. They are laying the ground work to push for federal vaccine mandates – which will maximize their markets.

The pharmaceutical industry loves vaccines for the US market because:

- 1) They have no liability for any injuries or deaths caused by vaccines.
- 2) They can charge high prices for new vaccines, negotiate behind closed doors what the government will pay for them and get half of the vaccines they produce paid for by the government and distributed by the government.
- 3) They have people who have financial ties to their companies sitting on the committee that recommends vaccines to be added to the schedule.
- 4) They can lobby in state houses to get legislators to mandate vaccines for school attendance and to prevent anyone from opting out, to maximize their markets.
- 5) The FDA allows them to get away with substandard studies before licensing and doesn't require them to follow up reported adverse events.

A federal mandate for any medical procedure is a slippery slope. The freedom to control what happens to your body is a fundamental human right. Whether it is abortion or the right to refuse treatment or the right to choose vaccination, Americans deserve this freedom. In a case like vaccines, where the safety science is inadequate so that accurate risks and benefits cannot be assessed, this freedom is imperative.

Last week, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices was considering a recommendation for Gardasil 9 for 27-45 year-old men and women. The recommendation would affect 80 million Americans. Yet, in clinical trials Gardasil 9 caused autoimmune symptoms in 2.3% of those who received it. The efficacy of the vaccine for men is based on “inferred” efficacy from the trials in women. There were only 150 men in this age group in the clinical trials. Miscarriage rates in the trials were double background rates. This is just a single example of how vaccine safety studies fall short of the necessary rigor. **Vaccine mandates violate basic human rights, especially when we need dramatically better safety science.**

Further information and full references are available on our website or by contacting CHD.