

Your street address
Your hometown, zip

Today's date

Dear President Obama,

I am a parent and an American. I write you with great urgency and concern. As HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius talks with school superintendents and gears up to mass vaccinate our children this fall by converting schools into *shot clinics*, there is a revolution brewing across the country. **You must put a stop to this plan.** Our public health, industry and medical establishment are on a collision course with parents and at stake is the very survival of the childhood vaccination program during a time our country can ill-afford to sustain.

Our children are not well. The parent view is simple. Over the past quarter century, our nation's children have become chronically ill and developmentally impaired at an alarming clip. You surely have the statistics.. Children are dying and sick at rates which exceed other first world and shockingly, a handful of developing countries as well. To be a young American adult contemplating parenthood today is to be bewildered and desperately afraid for our unborn children.

Equally alarming, no one knows why. The authorities have no answers and no solutions beyond "autism awareness" and vague mumblings about improved modern day diagnostic acuity. The bottom line is that this is not okay.

Toxins make us sick. I watch my country's leaders wring their hands about chemicals, emissions, garbage and other pollutants. You have a field day pointing fingers and then wearily lament the genie which cannot be stuffed back into the bottle. Environmental toxicity is a broad and convenient umbrella under which to hide. But no one can argue that toxins make us sick. And we are all, adults and children, sicker than ever. The existence of other environmental toxins does not automatically absolve vaccines. They are injected into children. They must be thoroughly scrutinized with the highest levels of scientific inquiry. And in the meantime, we must err on the side of caution and offer choice. Our children deserve no less.

Alarming increase in government-recommended vaccines. During this same quarter century, the number of vaccines our government recommends children receive has also increased at an astonishing rate. Many of these shots are mandated by the states for school attendance. There are a number of reasons this has happened, all of them unrelated to the health of our children. The most important is that we created a financial incentive for industry to obtain government endorsement of vaccines. If the vaccine is on the CDC schedule, industry escapes liability for vaccine-induced injury and death. Vaccines surely aren't keeping our nation's children well. We have more shots than ever before and our children are sicker than ever.

Skeptical and angry public. The failure to convince parents is surely not due to lack of effort. Government and industry have spent billions of public and private dollars -- a precious fortune -- promoting vaccines. Trust in government is at an all-time low during a time when

we need unity to solve large and challenging problems, including healthcare reform. As industry is repeatedly bailed out, taxpayers are required to foot the bill. In a country founded on principles of fairness and meritocracy, deep schisms are growing. We are a country in transition and, many would say, crisis.

I am a free American and I say no. It is against this backdrop of profound distrust in government that Ms. Sebelius intends to launch her mass vaccination program. I am incredulous at the speed with which you have permitted the mobilization of our nation's resources to develop, manufacture and implement a massive swine flu vaccination program this fall. We intend to mass produce this shot in quantities that will virtually guarantee their administration. American children, already overwhelmed with environmental toxicity, will get these shots without regard for their family history, their personal medical history and their performance status... and all of this without an answer to this basic question – will the vaccine cause more damage than the flu itself. I am a free American and I say no.

Ms. Sebelius seems to be saying vaccinate first, start with the children, track later, and keep fingers crossed all the while. Is this a strategy? In our panicked frenzy to escape the vile swine contagion, will we remember to stop and ask if this makes any sense at all?

MONEY: Is this a good use of scarce funds? Are mass vaccination programs cost effective? Can we justify billions of dollars for a virus that is no deadlier than seasonal flu? And if the avian flu comes to town next year, do we do it all over again? Is this yet another stimulus program on my nickel?

HEALTH: What's in the shots? Will new adjuvants be used? How about mercury? Will the ingredients and the shot itself be adequately safety tested, and tested with combinations of other vaccines and medications? What are the long-term health effects of this shot on adults and children? Could the vaccine cause more swine flu than it prevents? Do you remember the swine flu vaccine debacle of 1976 where dozens died, many hundreds contracted serious and debilitating injuries and the head of the CDC beat a hasty departure, in disgrace?

PANDEMIC: What's the straight story on this pandemic? The CDC admits it lacks the deadly genes which made the 1918 pandemic so deadly. Hospitalization rates are higher in those who *get* flu shots. Whoa! Doesn't this all seem a tad bit precipitous? Should vaccines be the only tool we have to resist disease? How about devoting \$1 billion to widely disseminate what we already know about old and new ways to strengthen the immune system? Or must it always be about the next new miracle drug? And do we always have to start with the children?

CHILDREN: American children are already chronically ill and neurodevelopmentally damaged in unprecedented numbers. They already receive 69 doses of 16 vaccines by age 18. The childhood numbers are 1 in 3 obese, 1 in 5 learning disabled, 1 in 9 asthmatic, 1 in 15 ADHD, 1 in 26 food allergic, 1 in 60 autistic, 1 in 143 babies dead, 1 in 150 epileptic, 1 in 450 diabetic. We haven't devoted *serious* funds to develop real solutions worthy of a First World country that put a man on the moon 40 years ago. In contrast, we immediately pony up \$1 billion dollars to develop a vaccine for a disease that for the most part is not deadly. Does anyone else find this troubling?

SCIENCE: Where is it? We assume it's there but it's not. Our government has approved seven new studies on vaccines and autism. How curious to hear that there's more to be learned about vaccine safety. Might we have ordered up these studies before ramping up the schedule of shots three-fold over the past 25 years?

FREEDOM: Given the concerns about safety and efficacy, should Americans ever be forced to vaccinate? Current laws in most states say that people who refuse vaccine could be, under certain circumstances, subject to incarceration or quarantine.

SAFETY: The CDC has told us for decades now that vaccines are both effective and held to the highest standards of safety, but here's what I have learned:

1) The Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), our government's main method of post-licensure surveillance, is documented to capture less than 5% of vaccine adverse events. Gross underreporting means we'll always respond too little and too late.

2) The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program pays people killed or harmed by vaccines.

3) Vaccine package inserts list many injuries that occur after vaccination. Vaccine makers say "no causal relationship has been established." This does not equate to "proven safe."

4) The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act protects vaccine makers against most liability from death and injury caused by vaccines. If vaccines are so safe, why is there the need to protect industry and force the injured to endure a frustrating, onerous, drawn out sublegal process? Why not allow parents to sue industry with dignity, the way our justice system is meant to work? We've succeeded in removing the most important motivation for Pharma to create safer vaccines for our children.

5) The Omnibus Autism Proceedings are a group of nearly 5,000 families who allege that vaccines caused their children's autism. Why do hundreds of thousands of families share disconcertingly similar stories? Why shut so many of these families out of "Vaccine Court" with the most stringent statute of limitations in existence (three years)?

In summary, I beseech you to put a stop to the swine flu campaign. You were elected on a platform of change and you *promised* to listen. Will you?

Sincerely,

[your name and signature go here]