



FOUNDATION FOR  
**PEDIATRIC HEALTH**

5/06/2015

Senator Ben Allen  
State Capitol, Room 2054  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Allen,

In support of the SB 277 bill to eliminate philosophical and religious vaccine exemptions, you have made an unsubstantiated claim that science has proven that vaccines do not cause autism. This letter challenges you to respond by mail by 5/13/15 with reference to just two studies that would back your claim regarding vaccines whose introduction coincides with the start of the sharp increase in autism prevalence in California:

- A single study that compares autism prevalence in children who received the Hib vaccine series to autism prevalence in children who did not receive any of the Hib vaccine series and found a statistically significant association of no association between the vaccine and autism
- A single study that compares autism prevalence in children who received the Hepatitis B vaccine series to autism prevalence in children who did not receive any of the Hepatitis B vaccine series and found a statistically significant association of no association between the vaccine and autism

To substantiate a claim that vaccines definitively do not cause autism, studies must have been conducted on each and every vaccine on the American childhood schedule. It is particularly important whether studies have been conducted on the Hib and Hepatitis B vaccines, since these vaccines were introduced in 1985-1991 when autism prevalence began sharply increasing from 1 in 2,500 then to the current 1 in 68 prevalence. For the Hib and Hepatitis B vaccines, our organization has performed an extensive review which concluded that there are no population studies which compared children who received those vaccines to those who didn't receive those vaccines which found a statistically significant finding of no association between those vaccines and chronic health conditions such as autism, ADHD, and food allergies. This scientific review included the studies listed on a CDC website which claims "Vaccines Do Not Cause Autism", as well as other studies not listed by the CDC. We did find two population studies which found the Hepatitis B vaccine was associated with a 9x increased risk of special education services and 3x increased risk of autism.

To reiterate, the challenge to you is to provide a references to just one specific study on the Hib vaccine and just one specific study on the Hepatitis B vaccine. Choose the two studies that you think compared autism prevalence in children who received the vaccine series, to the autism prevalence in children who did not receive any of the vaccine series, and found no association between the vaccine series administration and increased autism prevalence. It is not acceptable to provide a list longer than two studies, or to reference the CDC list of studies on one vaccine (MMR) and one ingredient (thimerosal). Provide just two references. Upon receipt of your answer, we will seek a professional evaluation from an epidemiologist in the University of California system as to whether the two studies you provided actually do find a statistically significant association of no association between the vaccine and autism. We will publish the results to the California citizenry.

Regards,



Dr. Renee Tocco Hunter  
President, Foundation For Pediatric Health