

Dear Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

My name is Tom Romenius, a special education teacher with over forty years of experience serving a diversified special needs student population, Kindergarten through to the age of 21. Throughout my tenure as a professional educator, I have witnessed a significant increase of students, both those who have been duly identified, as well as those within the so called, "normal" population, the exhibition, of a myriad of overt behaviors and learning challenges. Some of these conditions include, yet are not limited to the following: Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Conduct Disorder, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Learning Disabilities (LD), Autism, Mental Retardation, Behavioral Disorders, Speech-Language difficulties, and Autoimmune issues.

There has been an alarming upsurge of young students entering our public schools exhibiting severe behavioral and learning problems; markedly more than when I began my career in nineteen seventy-six. These observations are shared with many fellow educators who deal with this epidemic of student issues on a daily basis.

There appears to be a correlation between the increase of mandated school vaccines, and the affliction of students' mental and physical health based upon what is comprised of decades of my observations. I am not going to become entangled in the seemingly infinite debate as to whether children's inoculations are the direct cause for Autism, for I find that to be of a distraction-whether intentional or not-from the other possible health risks from the chemicals ingredients that are so listed in the vaccine packaging itself. (Are the Pharmaceutical side effects listed-some causing death- worse than the infections that are not life threatening)?

There is an influx of students with loss of concentration on tasks, coping skills, anger-management, and the exhibition of frustration and acting out. I also find the retort that our means of testing and diagnosing student cognitive and emotional disorders has become increasingly refined, lacks proof.

I am not a chemist, nor a physician, yet I am an educator capable of reading and comprehending the ingredients and disclaimers included in the packaging of vaccines. The possible side effects are terrifying. Even if only a small percentage of these chemicals can cause death, isn't one death too many-especially if it is your child? In addition, some of those side effects are crippling.

One size should not fit all, as it does. Even the FDA list the amount of aluminum, formaldehyde, etc. that a child should have administered into their bodies-things you would never dream of ingesting- and yet those amounts included in the vaccines far exceed those listed limits.

I am not opposed to some vaccines, because to do so would be.....

Common sense should prevail, and if not even that, then at the very least, freedom of choice. Choice to utilize vaccines if it is indeed what you deem best for yourself or child, or the choice not to do so.

Overcoming those skeptical and dismissive reactions that I encounter when even attempting to broach the subject of vaccine injury affecting our children is so disheartening.

My career has been dedicated for not only the education, but for the well-being of my student charges. Witnessing on a daily basis so many students struggle with every facet of the educational process is truly heart wrenching. Hopefully, you will find merit in my passion and concerns.

Respectfully,

Tom Romenius
Derby, USD 260 Educator