



## The American Academy of Pediatrics:

### 1. Is Actively Fighting State Laws to Ban Thimerosal From Vaccines

Attached is a copy of the AAP's website in NY State encouraging Doctors to write Governor Pataki to oppose the state's proposed ban on Thimerosal. Note: NY voted to BAN THIMEROSAL.

An excerpt from *Mothering Magazine*:

"In what might be the most puzzling about-face in its history, the AAP has apparently reversed course, abandoned the 'precautionary principle' and appears to no longer be concerned about mercury-containing vaccines. In Action Alerts to their membership and newspaper editorials, the AAP has engaged in an aggressive campaign to rehabilitate thimerosal, going so far as to endorse its continued use in vaccines. Earlier this year, the AAP encouraged its membership to write letters of opposition to the Governor of New York and officials in other states considering legislation to limit thimerosal use in vaccines given to infants, children, and pregnant women."

### 2. Is Against the Combating Autism Act

The AAP is against the Combating Autism Act, according to this article written by *Evidence of Harm* author David Kirby, because the bill will devote millions of dollars to

"research on a broad array of environmental factors that have a possible role in autism, including but not limited to vaccines, other biological and pharmaceutical products, and their components (including preservatives)." In other words, Congress wants to study thimerosal -- the mercury containing vaccine preservative and possible contributor to some autism cases -- and that makes the powerful AAP very, very unhappy. "Any bill that contains any questions about vaccines, we are not going to endorse," one lobbyist informed the group."

**EXHIBIT FROM NY'S AAP CHAPTER WEBSITE:**

**Action Alert**

**Urge Governor to VETO Thimerosal Bill**

Contact Governor Immediately - Time is of the Essence

Please contact Governor Pataki and urge him to VETO Bill A.5543/S.2707 that is anti-immunization and is based on junk science and bad public health policy.

**Editable text:**

(edit or add your own text)

As a pediatrician in New York, I urge you to veto A.5543/S.2707. This legislation represents very bad public health policy that is based on junk science and mass hysteria, not on the evidence of science

This bill, designed to protect individuals from alleged adverse effects of thimerosal which contains ethyl mercury, is completely unnecessary. To legislate based on fear and misinformation is an anathema to those of us who work tirelessly for the health and welfare of our communities. To enact this legislation implies that the vaccines that have virtually eradicated many diseases, constituting one of the greatest public health accomplishments of the past century, are dangerous. This bill denigrates our informed scientific and medical communities while supporting all of the anti-vaccine factions in our society. This legislation potentially jeopardizes our most vulnerable communities.

Vaccine formulations that are either thimerosal-free or have only trace amounts of thimerosal are currently licensed for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). All recommended childhood vaccines are already thimerosal-free. Influenza vaccine with greatly-reduced thimerosal content is already licensed and available for use in young children and pregnant women. And most importantly, despite the headlines in the media, there is no evidence that thimerosal is harmful.

This legislation would abolish the use of thimerosal-containing vaccines in children under age three and in pregnant women, except under specified declared exceptional circumstances. In the absence of influenza vaccine shortages, this is a non-issue. Should we again experience influenza vaccine shortages and face an issued exception to this rule, families are likely to believe that vaccine is dangerous (for why else would there be such a law?) and refuse such immunization.

In addition, our vulnerable adult populations should receive influenza vaccine each year to protect themselves, their families, and their communities. This legislation suggests that the vaccine they receive is dangerous.

To allow fear and misinformation to jeopardize the robustness of our immunization efforts, particularly around influenza, does our public health efforts a disservice, endangers our children, families, and communities, and is ill advised.

Veto A.5543/S.2707.

Sincerely,

Note: Governor Pataki chose to put the children first and ban Thimerosal, despite the lobbying of the AAP.