

CoMED INC.

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Honorable Chair Lugris, Member of this esteemed assembly and our host country Kenya My name is Carmen Gloria Chaigneau and I'm from Chile, South-America.

I am an international associate of the Coalition for Mercury-free Drugs, CoMeD; Also, I am the International Director of Bioautismo, a Non Governmental Organization from Chile that has successfully helped promote the first law in Latin America that bans Thimerosal from our country. And above all; I'm the mother of an affected child who reacted to the accumulative amounts Mercury in every vaccine he received.

Thimerosal is 49.6 % Mercury by weight, and is used as a preservative in most vaccines since 1930. Serious discussions about the presence of Mercury in the environment are the focus of this assembly, but what about its unnecessary injection in to a newborn?

Furthermore, what are we to do when the safe exposure-limits set by the World Health Organization are being surpassed everyday in the developing countries?

Developed countries decided back in 1999 that they will not use or they would only use trace amounts of Mercury, which is 1 mcg or less per dose, but the rest of the countries are still, **to-date**, injecting amounts as high as 25 mcg of mercury per dose, which by WHO standards on Methyl and Ethyl mercury is an overdose of this neurotoxin.

After a deep investigation on this matter, we met with one of our Law Makers, from the Chilean House of Deputies, Mrs. Cristina Girardi, who understood the need to legislate on this matter. She led the campaign that ended up with unanimous approval of this bill on the lower chamber and the Senate with the support of Chile's Public Health Officials. Chile is now the first country in Latin America to discuss, legislate, vote and approve such law. The next step is for our President to sign the law.

Since we first approach our Health Authorities in June 2010, officials responded immediately by allowing only trace amounts of Thimerosal in the vaccines for infants who are 2, 4, 6 and 18 months of age. Next step will be our 4 and 7 year old children will also receive Thimerosal Free vaccines, as stated by our Health Authorities on July 5th 2011 in our Senate.

As of today there are over 100 studies on Thimerosal which have been published since 2000 and they have shown Thimerosal toxicity, from researchers around the globe like US, England, Australia, Egypt, Brazil, Peru and Poland among others. What The Geiers have observed has been validated by all of them. On the other hand, only a handful studies, no more than 20, have failed to find consistent evidence of harm.

I respectfully urge the WHO to join the extreme effort my country is doing and support those nations who cannot make this change by themselves and help them move to vaccines with no mercury, increasing the need for them and making them even more available for all nations. It is unacceptable to have a double standard with regard to drug safety. Children in developing countries deserved safer mercury free vaccines, just as much children in developed country.

In their own words the WHO has expressed: **“The overall goal of the treaty is to protect human health and the environment by reducing mercury releases”**, so is it ok to control it from the environment but keep it in the shots of vulnerable newborns and children? Ladies and Gentlemen, we all want this treaty to be successful and credible, let’s make sure our Health Authorities will not lose their credibility by defending this toxic element in vaccines, putting at risk the success of vaccine programs.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully submitted by

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