

July 21, 2005

On Vaccine Safety

Dear Colleague:

Recent articles in the press have made allegations about the integrity of a 2004 report by the Immunization Safety Review Committee of the Institute of Medicine. This report concluded that the evidence favors rejection of the theory that vaccines containing the mercury-based preservative thimerosal cause autism.

You should be aware that the Institute of Medicine stands behind its report. Attached is a statement from the Institute of Medicine's President, Dr. Harvey Fineberg.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member

Committee on Government Reform

Enclosure