

**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations  
September 9, 2025**

*As submitted to the record:*

I want to welcome everyone to today's hearing titled, "How the Corruption of Science has Impacted Public Perception and Policies Regarding Vaccines." I also want to thank the witnesses for their time, effort, and willingness to testify.

The awareness that much of scientific research is unreliable is not new. In an article published in January 2009 and titled, "Drug Companies & Doctors: A Story of Corruption," Dr. Marcia Angell stated, "It is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published, or to rely on the judgment of trusted physicians or authoritative medical guidelines. I take no pleasure in this conclusion, which I reached slowly and reluctantly over my two decades as an editor of *The New England Journal of Medicine*."<sup>1</sup> A May 2016 survey published in the journal *Nature*, found that "more than 70% of researchers have tried and failed to reproduce another scientist's experiments[.]"<sup>2</sup>

And in May 2024, *Wiley*, a major academic publisher, closed 19 journals primarily due to issues with fraudulent papers, largely attributed to "paper mills" producing fake or compromised studies.<sup>3</sup> In the two years leading up to May 2024, Wiley had retracted more than 11,300 papers that were deemed compromised, often due to manipulated peer review processes or fabricated content.<sup>4</sup>

I have invited two witnesses who will discuss different examples of how research can be doctored or withheld in order to support a predetermined narrative and the powerful interests that benefit from that narrative. Attorney Aaron Siri will unveil a high-quality study completed in 2020 and suspiciously withheld by the authors that shows vaccinated children suffer 2.5 times the rate of chronic illness compared to unvaccinated children. Ph.D. researcher, Dr. Toby Rogers, will discuss the history and obvious flaws in studies searching for the cause of autism. The minority's witness, Dr. Jake Scott, will make the case that the public should rely on research proving that vaccines are safe and effective.

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<sup>1</sup> Marcia Angell, *Drug Companies & Doctors: A Story of Corruption*, The New York Review of Books, January 15, 2009, Accessed September 8, 2025: <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2009/01/15/drug-companies-doctors-a-story-of-corruption/>.

<sup>2</sup> Monya Baker, *1,500 scientists lift the lid on reproducibility*, *Nature*, May 26, 2016, Accessed September 8, 2025: <https://www.nature.com/articles/533452a>.

<sup>3</sup> Nidhi Subbaraman, *Flood of Fake Science Forces Multiple Journal Closures; Wiley to shutter 19 more journals, some tainted by fraud*, Wall Street Journal, May 14, 2024, Access on September 8, 2024: [https://www.wsj.com/science/academic-studies-research-paper-mills-journals-publishing-f5a3d4bc?gaa\\_at=eafs&gaa\\_n=ASWzDAiUku3D8ZA9cL-Z4cy2cJSAQXmAR-nU56SwZzbbSCfqlINY6ENWRAdUE&gaa\\_ts=68bed543&gaa\\_sig=AxSTBaOpgziyqBfvIWseukvZw1MYrrFPcvqXYSXQaWUWBeHxIRM2JI7cY5Lv9QVdZCvICXO\\_fY9qCjwHeEPIIQ%3D%3D](https://www.wsj.com/science/academic-studies-research-paper-mills-journals-publishing-f5a3d4bc?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=ASWzDAiUku3D8ZA9cL-Z4cy2cJSAQXmAR-nU56SwZzbbSCfqlINY6ENWRAdUE&gaa_ts=68bed543&gaa_sig=AxSTBaOpgziyqBfvIWseukvZw1MYrrFPcvqXYSXQaWUWBeHxIRM2JI7cY5Lv9QVdZCvICXO_fY9qCjwHeEPIIQ%3D%3D).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

Concurrent with our first hearing, we released a report showing federal health agencies were aware that a safety signal did exist for myocarditis associated with the COVID mRNA injection and hid that fact from the public.<sup>5</sup> Our second hearing allowed witnesses who have been impacted by vaccine injuries and fatal infectious diseases to tell their stories.<sup>6</sup> The news media is all too willing to highlight a new outbreak of infectious disease, but is loath to broadcast what they generally describe as “rare and mild” vaccine injuries. As a result, the vaccine injured have been ignored and abandoned.

In September 2024, I held a public roundtable discussion titled, “American Health and Nutrition: A Second Opinion,” that highlighted America’s alarming rate of chronic illness.<sup>7</sup> Dr. Chris Palmer, a psychiatrist who studies the impact of nutrition on mental health, testified that when it comes to chronic illnesses, “they do not want root causes discovered.”<sup>8</sup>

By “they,” I assumed Dr. Palmer was referring to the powerful entities and individuals whose multi-billion dollar businesses and organizational interests would be disrupted by the knowledge that the products they produce or promote cause harm. They certainly don’t want the public to know the root cause if it’s their product, and they are willing to go to great lengths by spending billions of dollars on advertising and lobbyists to keep the public from even asking the question, much less finding the answer.

The purpose of these hearings is to force us to acknowledge reality. Exactly what all the realities and truths are I cannot say. What I can say for sure is that we have been lied to repeatedly and that in order to restore public faith in federal health agencies, integrity must return to science. We must also have open minds and be willing to face the truth.

It has been interesting to see the media’s reaction to our previous hearings. Except for a few highly biased attack pieces, the legacy media has largely ignored what I consider to be highly informative hearings. Perhaps they are taking advice from Senator Blumenthal who hours before our last hearing, “Voices of the Vaccine Injured,” held a press conference and was reported to have stated, “I hope nothing comes of this hearing. I hope people don’t pay attention because it isn’t deserving of credibility and attention.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Congress, Senate, Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations, Chairman Ron Johnson Majority Staff Interim Report, *Failure to Warn: How Federal Health Agencies Downplayed the Risk of Myocarditis* <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/2025/5/failure-to-warn-how-federal-health-agencies-downplayed-the-risk-of-myocarditis> (May 21, 2025).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Congress, Senate, Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations Hearing, *Voices of the Vaccine Injured*, 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1st sess. <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/investigations/hearings/voices-of-the-vaccine-injured/> (July 15, 2025).

<sup>7</sup> Senator Ron Johnson, *American Health and Nutrition: A Second Opinion*, *American Health & Nutrition Roundtable*. <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/2024/9/american-health-and-nutrition-a-second-opinion> (September 27, 2024).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> B. Zadrozny, *At Senate hearing, anti-vaxxers seek to capitalize on friends in high places*, MSNBC. <https://www.msnbc.com/politics/congress/ron-johnson-senate-hearing-anti-vaccine-misinformation-rcna218659> (July 15, 2025).

However, during the hearing, Senator Blumenthal stated, “I am heartbroken to hear these stories. It makes me want to do something.”<sup>10</sup> So maybe hearing true and credible stories of vaccine injuries actually did deserve attention. I certainly believe today’s testimony deserves attention, and hope it will prompt us to do something to restore credibility and integrity to science and our federal health agencies.

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<sup>10</sup> U.S. Congress, Senate, Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations Hearing, *Voices of the Vaccine Injured*, 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1st sess.  
<https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/investigations/hearings/voices-of-the-vaccine-injured/> (July 15, 2025).