

## Testimony for PSI Committee Hearing “Voices of the Vaccine Injured”

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My name is Dr. Brian Hooker and I serve at the Chief Scientific Officer of Children’s Health Defense and Emeritus Professor of Biology at Simpson University.

My son Steven was born on February 2, 1998 and was a healthy baby boy. My wife and I made sure that he was vaccinated on time per the CDC schedule. I didn’t really know what a vaccine adverse event was and thought I was doing the best for my son.

Steve was born in the “thimerosal era” where most hepatitis B, Hib and DTap vaccines distributed in the US contained up to 25 micrograms of mercury from the preservative thimerosal. By my son’s 15-month well-baby checkup, he was exposed to an accumulated total of 237.5 micrograms of mercury and in two of his checkups at 2 and 6 months of age, received a single-day mercury exposure of 62.5 micrograms which exceeded the current EPA safe exposure limit by nearly 200 times. Prior to his 15-month well-baby checkup, Steve had been diagnosed with developmental delays and chronic ear infections and upper respiratory infections. We treated these infections with antibiotics and Tylenol as a fever reducer.

On the same day as my son’s 15-month, well-baby visit, he was diagnosed with an ear infection (otitis media) by an otolaryngologist. My wife and I still dutifully took Steve to his well-baby checkup afterwards, but we questioned the attending nurse practitioner whether he should receive his vaccines while he was sick. The NP brushed off our concerns indicating they “didn’t have any problems” associated with vaccinating sick children. That day, he received the Hib and DTap vaccines as well as the oral polio virus vaccine. This overtaxed his immune system, which was already fighting an ear infection, and he fevered for 18 days after that check-up. The pediatrician told us to treat the fever with Tylenol. No one at that office mentioned the possibility my son was having an adverse reaction to his vaccines.

After his fever, he very quickly and severely regressed. He stopped talking altogether, didn’t respond to his name, lost all joint attention, would constantly stare into space and even lost his ability to walk unassisted for the first three months following vaccination. His bowel movements were either explosive diarrhea or debilitating constipation. At his 18-month checkup, he was diagnosed with full-blown autism by the same pediatrician who gave him all of his vaccines.

My son has also been diagnosed with mitochondria dysfunction, tics, speech and language delays, non-organic sleep disorder, sensory integration dysfunction, ileitis, colitis, esophagitis and whole-body dyspraxia. At 27 years old, he still cannot speak.

My son was a petitioner in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program for over 16 years, before his case was thrown out by the Special Master prior to oral arguments. Vaccine Court, with its capricious statute of limitations, would not consider any vaccines prior to his 15 months shots and ruled that he had autism earlier because “he was pulling his ears” at six months. No one in the DOJ directly opposing my son in court seemed to notice that he was pulling his ears because of recurrent ear infections.

My son requires 24/7 care and his severe dyspraxia means that he is in a prisoner in his own body, a body that betrays him every time he tries to execute any intentional task such as, eating, talking, walking, grabbing or grasping an object, etc. He also suffers excruciating chronic pain due to gut dysbiosis and neuroinflammation.

Society doesn't want to acknowledge vaccine injury, period. Our story is not welcome in the news media and social media completely censors us. My family has been gaslit repeatedly and my son's medical history has become fodder for astroturfers' blogs as well as for CDC researchers, armchair quarterbacking his vaccine injury case. My son's life has been ruined physically and emotionally and he is persecuted for the mere fact that he exists.