Statement by Polly Tommey Director of <u>CHD.TV</u>, Children's Health Defense on Voices of the Vaccine Injured before Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

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My son, <u>Billy</u>, entered this world as a healthy, perfect baby, with an Apgar score that reflected his perfection. We followed every wellness check, every vaccination schedule, believing in the system that promised our child's safety. For his entire first year, Billy thrived, meeting milestones ahead of others—crawling, babbling, growing. Yet, <u>everything changed at 13 months</u>, the day he received the MMR vaccine. That day, I walked into the doctor's office, trusting the advice of professionals who emphasized the importance of vaccinating against deadly diseases like measles. Billy had just finished a round of antibiotics, but the nurse reassured me that the MMR vaccine was essential. Like any diligent parent, I followed those instructions.

Hours after the vaccination, Billy's perfect world shattered. He became lethargic, sleeping for long stretches. When my husband came home that afternoon and went to check on him, I heard a scream that shook me to my core. Billy was convulsing, his tiny body gripped by a febrile seizure. We rushed him to the hospital, desperate for answers. The doctors dismissed our fears, stating this was a common reaction to the vaccine— nothing to worry about. They prescribed more antibiotics, more Tylenol, and sent us home.

But Billy was never the same. He began emitting high-pitched screams, banging his head against walls and floors with alarming frequency. His health deteriorated, his swollen head, protruding tummy, sunken eyes. His body was ravaged by relentless diarrhea, staining his clothes like bleach. And although we pleaded with doctors, searching for answers, we were met with denial, blame, and rejection. "It's not the vaccines," they said. The system silenced us, left us stranded, even shunned by family for daring to speak the truth.

Billy's condition worsened. He lost recognition of us, of his siblings — the bonds of family severed. He became a danger to himself, running without understanding risks or consequences. Billy eventually received a diagnosis of autism. Desperate for help, answers, we created the "Autism File" magazine to seek answers from parent to parent. We went on TV, shared our story, every time the MMR injury was edited out or we were told not to mention vaccines. We made a film, "<u>Vaxxed</u>", and travelled across the country in search of stories like ours.

We uncovered a horrifying reality: parents everywhere were suffering, their voices silenced, their children injured or gone. In city after city, families lined up, desperate for someone to listen. The pain etched on their faces is unforgettable. Their stories mirrored ours—healthy, happy children, transformed overnight after a vaccine or series of vaccines. The seizures, the unbearable screams, the self-harm—it was and still is, everywhere.

The <u>death</u>, <u>so much death</u>. Particularly following <u>HPV vaccines</u> & <u>Dtap</u>, <u>all baby vaccines</u>, <u>flu</u>. zxsl had no idea you could <u>die following vaccination</u> but here we are. I have lost count of the <u>dead baby stories</u> following <u>vaccination</u>, the <u>toddlers</u>, <u>children</u>, and <u>teens</u>, <u>so much death</u>.

We heard of <u>life-threatening allergies</u>, <u>tremors so intense</u> that the victims were unable to speak, move, walk. <u>Many reported</u> they had <u>lost the will to live</u>. Children in wheelchairs, <u>paralyzed from</u> <u>the waist down</u>, some appearing barely living as they <u>lie paralyzed</u> in special wheelchairs made for no movement. 2-year-old twins that <u>cannot even lift their heads</u> following Hep B vaccinations. Children who have to have their <u>lungs drained by the parents and feeding tubes</u> was a regular vision as we traveled. And of course, the <u>autism</u>, the <u>autism</u> is, I believe, <u>far more prevalent</u> than we are told. The <u>autism</u> like my son, Billy, the real hard <u>vaccine induced autism</u>-this is quite literally everywhere. The <u>devastation and catastrophic destruction</u> is untold.

This is not just our story, it is a national crisis. Divorce rates soar among families dealing with vaccine injuries. Financial ruin follows. One parent is a carer for life. It affects not just the injured, parents, siblings but the whole extended family. The American family itself is being destroyed, yet we are dismissed as "anti-vaxxers." Let me be clear: we vaccinated because we trusted. We obeyed. And now, our lives have been shattered. On behalf of American families who have lost children either through death or injury following vaccination I would like to thank Senator Ron Johnson for hearing us. We prayed we would see this day, and our family's faith in God is what has held us together and given us hope. We thank Jesus for the strength to carry on.

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV) "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Thank you.