

**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson**  
**Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations**  
**July 15, 2025**

*As submitted to the record:*

In our first hearing of this Congress titled, “The Corruption of Science and Federal Health Agencies: How Health Officials Downplayed and Hid Myocarditis and Other Adverse Events Associated with the COVID-19 Injections,” I asked Dr. Joel Wallskog, an orthopedic surgeon injured by the Covid injections, to describe how those suffering from Covid injection injuries felt. His one-word answer: “Abandoned.”

The purpose of today’s hearing titled, “Voices of the Vaccine Injured,” is very simple: to give a platform to those individuals and families who have been abandoned—their injuries and suffering dismissed and forgotten. In addition, we will also hear from witnesses whose lives were devastated by fatal cases of severe influenza.

We all fear death and disease. The appeal of a simple shot that can prevent both is obvious and powerful. Unfortunately, this strong appeal has overridden critical thinking and prevented rigorous cost/benefit analyses from being done. The faith in vaccines and vaccination policy is protected with religious-like zeal, and those questioning them are viewed as dangerous apostates, more than deserving of the scorn, vilification, and retribution heaped upon them.

An open-minded review of the history of vaccination dating back to Edward Jenner, the creator of the smallpox vaccine, is both interesting and enlightening. Reading books like *Dissolving Illusions*, *Turtles All the Way Down*, and *Vaccines: Mythology, Ideology, and Reality*, or a May 21, 2025 substack by Toby Rogers titled, “Mapping the Entire Field of Autism Causation Studies in One Article,” certainly opened my eyes and I sincerely hope will open millions more.

Understanding the recent history of vaccines is essential to developing a fair-minded viewpoint. In the early eighties, investigative journalists and lawsuits were beginning to highlight the harms caused by vaccines.<sup>1</sup> This led to jury awards for injuries and the withdrawal of pharmaceutical companies from vaccine manufacturing and distribution.<sup>2</sup> The availability of vaccines was at risk.<sup>3</sup> This legitimate concern was addressed with the passage of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 which led to blanket immunity for vaccines through subsequent regulation.<sup>4</sup> An explosion in the number of vaccine doses on the childhood schedule was the result. According to Mr. Rogers, “Prior to 1986, there were 3 routine vaccines totaling 7

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<sup>1</sup> Elena Conis, Measles and the Modern History of Vaccination, Public Health Rep. 2019 Mar/Apr;134(2):118-125, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6410476/>.

<sup>2</sup> Kevin Hickey and Hannah-Alise Rogers, Compensation for COVID-19 Vaccine Injuries, Apr. 16, 2025, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R46982>; National Research Council (US) Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Vaccine Supply and Innovation, 1985, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK216813/>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

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

injections. Today the CDC's Maternal and Child & Adolescent vaccine schedules include 19 vaccines requiring 76 injections with 94 total doses of antigen.”<sup>5</sup>

In August 1997, the FDA under President Clinton's administration issued draft guidance to allow pharmaceutical companies to advertise directly to consumers beyond print media into TV and radio.<sup>6</sup> According to one estimate, drug companies spent \$10 billion on direct-to-consumer advertising in 2024, currently accounting for almost 25% of evening news ad minutes on major networks.<sup>7</sup> That amount of spending has paid off handsomely for Big Pharma and its ability to control the narrative and suppress stories of drug and vaccine injuries.

But to understand the true reality we face, there is nothing like hearing from those who have suffered the adverse events that are rarely acknowledged by the medical establishment, federal health agencies, and the corporate media. Today, we have five witnesses who will tell how drug and vaccine injuries have impacted their lives. We also hear from two witnesses who will advocate for “routine immunizations across the lifespan” because they lost loved ones from a disease vaccines were intended to prevent.

Thank you all for taking the time and effort to appear before us today. As difficult as it will be for you to testify today, it is important for the American public to hear your stories.

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<sup>5</sup> Toby Rogers, Mapping the Entire Field of Autism Causation Studies in One Article, July 8, 2025, <https://brownstone.org/articles/mapping-the-entire-field-of-autism-causation-studies-in-one-article/>.

<sup>6</sup> Julie Donohue, A history of drug advertising: the evolving roles of consumers and consumer protection, *Milbank Quarterly*, 2006;84(4):659-99, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2690298/>.

<sup>7</sup> RFK Jr. Plans Crackdown on Pharma Ads in Threat to \$10 Billion Market, *Bloomberg*, June 17, 2025, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-17/rfk-jr-plans-crackdown-on-pharma-ads-in-threat-to-10-billion-market?sref=Hhue1scO>; Brian Boyle, Proposed Crackdown on Pharma Ads Leaves Cable TV Fearing \$10B Withdrawal, *Daily Upside*, June 18, 2025, <https://www.thedailyupside.com/industries/healthcare/proposed-crackdown-on-pharma-ads-leaves-cable-tv-fearing-10b-withdrawal/>.