

Dear Sir:

As you may know Congressman Dave Weldon of Florida and Jerold Nadler of New York had introduced a bill to make obtaining compensation under the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program easier. Today I was informed today by Stuart Burns, Congressman Weldon's legislative director, that the bill, now sponsored by Dan Burton of Indiana and Henry A. Waxman of California, is in trouble. The vaccine manufacturers have lobbied heavily against it.

The Bill is, HR 3741, the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program Improvement Act of 2002. Mr. Burns tells me that to get this bill passed we need to have a major letter writing campaign by parents of injured children directed both to their representative and to the J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker, United States House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515. Fax: 202-225-0697. If we do not do this, the bill has only about a 30% chance of passage. Local representatives need to be urged to co-sponsor the bill. The Speaker must be urged to bring the bill up for a vote. If possible parents should visit their representative's district office and if possible ask to speak to their representative personally.

I would hope that you could energize your members. The bill provides for the payment of the costs of medical experts from the trust fund as they are incurred. This provision will be particularly useful to the parents of Autism Spectrum children as the tests needed to link this type of disorder to a vaccine are expensive and hard to find.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

John F. McHugh