

## Opening address: Power of Parents Rally, Oct. 8, 2005 at Washington, D.C.

### Barbara Loe Fisher

Co-Founder & President  
National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC)

We are here today on behalf of tens of thousands of families of vaccine injured autistic children to appeal to pediatrician members of the American Academy of Pediatrics to change their policies and protect children from being harmed by vaccines.

Members of the American Academy of Pediatrics: we ask you to listen to the mothers and fathers who describe to you how their bright, healthy children regressed after vaccination and became totally different children physically, mentally and emotionally.

We ask you to open up your hearts and see the suffering of our children, who have no voice and have no choice except the voice and choice we, their parents, give to them.

We ask you to open up your minds to the possibility that because the numbers of doses of childhood vaccines have nearly doubled during the past quarter century—with many containing mercury preservatives—one in six American children is now developmentally delayed and suffering with autism, learning disabilities, and hyperactivity and millions of others are asthmatic, diabetic, or trying to cope with other kinds of immune and brain disorders.

We ask that you drop your opposition and join parents in our efforts to pass laws banning the use of mercury in vaccines because mercury is a known neurotoxin and should not be injected in any form into the human body for any reason.

We ask you to care about the lives of individual children and stop recommending one-size-fits-all vaccine policies which do not respect biodiversity, leaving too many vulnerable children unidentified and at high risk for vaccine reactions, injuries and death.

We ask you to support legislation funding basic science research into how and why vaccines cause harm and who is genetically or otherwise biologically at greater risk.

We ask you to acknowledge the young casualties of our nation's mass vaccination program and stop throwing mothers and fathers out of your offices when they ask you questions about vaccines or attempt to make informed, voluntary vaccination decisions for their children.

We ask you to be the kind of doctors who first, do no harm, when it comes to vaccinating an individual or an entire nation. Because you have in your hands a sacred trust, which you have asked for and we have given to you when we put our children's lives in your hands.

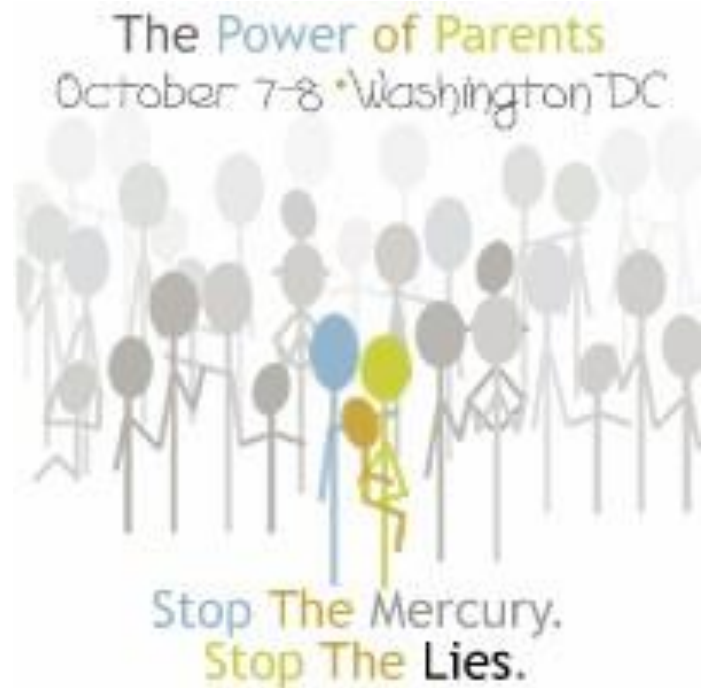
You are professionally and personally responsible for what happens after you vaccinate a child, even when you choose to believe that anything bad that happens is just a coincidence.

We are going to continue to witness to our nation and to the nations of the world what is happening to our children after vaccination until you hear our cries and do not turn away.

We are going to do this no matter how long it takes.

Because these are our children. They will have our grandchildren.

Look into their eyes.  
They are the future.



### NVIC Note:

Parents of vaccine injured autistic children, many of whom watched their children regress after receiving many mercury-containing vaccines, gathered to protest the AAP's vaccine policies, including the AAP's opposition to efforts by parents to pass laws banning mercury in vaccines.

The day before the rally, the AAP banned some of the speakers scheduled to speak at the Saturday press conference as well as several related family members from entering the convention hall. Speakers at the press conference included Barbara Loe Fisher; Tommy Redwood, M.D., Scott Bono, Jim Donnelly, Wendy Fournier and John Gilmore. The DC police were called in during the press conference, which was being held on the convention hall steps, and the speakers were forced to move to the sidewalk next to the hall. The parents and their children, many carrying signs asking the AAP to change their policies, were forced into the pouring rain but stayed their ground holding umbrellas.

The Power of Parents Rally was coordinated by the National Autism Association (NAA), Moms Against Mercury, A-CHAMP, Advocates for Children's Health Affected by Mercury Poisoning and supported by more than 70 autism advocacy and related organizations.