

death in nearby Paris for allegedly raping a five year old girl. The incident was not unusual: lynchings were common throughout the South. African Americans were essentially barred from voting by literacy tests. They could not ride in railway cars with white people, or use a wide range of public facilities set aside for whites. When young Bessie first went to school at the age of six, it was to a one-room wooden shack, a four-mile walk from her home. Often there was not paper to write on or pencils to write with.

When Coleman turned 23 she moved to Chicago to live with two of her older brothers. When she decided that she wanted to learn to fly, the double stigma of race and gender meant that she would have to go to France in order to realize her dreams. It was soldiers returning from World War I with wild tales of flying exploits which first interested Coleman in aviation. It was also her brothers who taunted her with claims that French women were superior to African American women because they could fly. In fact, very few American women of any race had a pilots license in 1918. Those who did were predominantly white and wealthy. Every flying school that Coleman approached refused to admit her because she was both black and a woman. On the advice of Robert Abbott, the owner of the Chicago Defender Newspaper, one of the first African American millionaires, Coleman decided to learn to fly in France. She learned French at the Berlitz School in the Chicago Loop, withdrew the savings she had accumulated from her work as a manicurist and manager of a chili parlor, and with financial support from Robert Abbott and another African American business person she set off from New York for Paris on November 20, 1920. The only non-Caucasian in her class, it took her seven months to learn to fly. When she returned to the United States in 1921, she was greeted by great crowds and for more than five years performed at countless air shows. However, she refused to perform anywhere where Blacks were not permitted. In 1926, on her last flight in Jacksonville, Florida, an unsecured wrench got caught in the gas controls. The plane with a young mechanic, William Willis in the pilots seat, went out of control, and Bessie who was not wearing a seatbelt was thrown to her death. Ten thousand people turned out for her funeral. She has not been forgotten, beginning in 1931, a group of Black pilots instituted a annual fly over her grave, a postage stamp exists in her honor, Bessie Coleman Drive exists at Chicago's O'Hare airport and she continues to help others to know that they too can fly.

Willa B. Brown (1906–1992). The first African American woman to get a commercial pilots license. Willa B. Brown was born January 21, 1906 in Glasgow, Kentucky U.S.A. She received her bachelor's degree in 1927 at Indiana State Teacher's College. For a while, she taught school in Gary, Indiana and then, in 1932, after having divorced her husband, she moved to Chicago, Illinois. Influenced by Bessie Coleman, Willa started taking flying lessons in 1934. Soon she became a member of the flying club, the Challenger Air Pilot's Association, and the Chicago Girls Flight Club. She also purchased her own airplane. In 1937, she received her pilot's license and that same

year, she received a master's degree from Northwestern University. Also in 1937, she co-founded the National Airmen's Association of America with her flight instructor, Cornelius R. Coffey. The association's goal was to promote African American aviation. In 1938, they started the Coffey School of Aeronautics, where approximately 200 pilots were trained in the next seven years. Some of those pilots later became part of the 99th Pursuit Squadron at Tuskegee Institute, also know as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Brown lobbied Washington for inclusion of African Americans in the Civilian Pilot Training Program and in the Army Air Corps, and in 1941, she became a training coordinator for the Civil Aeronautics Administration and a teacher in the Civilian Pilot Training Program. The following year, she became the first African American member of the Civil-Air-Patrol. She also promoted aviation on the radio and taught it in high schools. In 1972, Brown became a member of the Women's Advisory Committee on Aviation in the Federal Aviation Agency. Willa B. Brown died July 18, 1992.

Janet Harmon Bragg. Janet Harmon Bragg was born in Griffin, Georgia in 1912. She grew up with her mother, father and siblings, the youngest of seven children. After graduation from high school in Fort Valley, Georgia, she enrolled in the all girls, all Black Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She earned her degree in nursing from Mac Bicar Hospital which was on Spelman's campus. She moved to Rockford, Illinois and later on to Chicago where she began a career in nursing. Although Mrs. Bragg started out in the field of nursing and made her living from it, her interest in flying started when she was a little girl. She put it this way, "As a child I always wanted to fly. . . . I used to watch the birds . . . how they would take off and land. . . . It was interesting to see how they would drop this tail down when they would run and take off." One day in 1933, in Chicago as she was coming out of a house, she saw on a billboard across the street a drawing of a bird building a nest with chicks in the nest. A caption read, "Birds learn to fly. Why can't you? She said to herself, They do have to learn to fly." That incident cinched it, according to Mrs. Bragg. The owners of a Black Insurance Company in Chicago where she worked encouraged her to pursue her educational and other goals. She enrolled in the Aeronautical School of Engineering to begin here groundwork. Black and white students were segregated. She was the first Black female student to enter the class. Here she learned to fly and to take care of planes. She was able to take a few lessons at a private airport but the rate of \$15 per hour in 1933 proved too costly. Therefore, she took \$600 and bought her own plane. With the purchase of the plane, Mrs. Bragg and a few other Black pioneer aviators started their own airport in Robbins, Illinois, about 20 miles Southwest of Chicago. This group also formed the Challenger Aero Club. This group went on to establish the Coffy School of Aviation in 1939. This school and five other Black colleges participated in the civilian pilot training program and later fed students into the Army Air Corps training program at Tuskegee, Alabama. In short, Mrs. Bragg was at the heart of Black aviation in Chicago from its inception.

Mrs. Bragg, retired from flying in 1965 and from nursing in 1972. Since moving to Tucson, Arizona, she has been active with the Urban League and Habitat for Humanity. She has participated in the Adopt a Scholar Program at Pima College, as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, lectures locally and nationally on such topics as aviation and women in science and aerospace. She was proclaimed outstanding citizen of Tucson in 1982.

Mr. Speaker, all three of these women have made outstanding contributions to the field of aviation and Chicago is indeed proud that we can lay claim to some part of their legacies.

PROVIDING REMEDIES FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today we passed the IDEA bill, which was designed to help children who have learning disabilities to get the kind of attention they need in the educational systems across this country. The bill was not a bad bill. It did not go far enough. We only provide about 21 percent of the funds that are necessary. It should be 40 percent. That is what we promised the States. We are not there yet, but hopefully we will get there before too long.

The reason I am here on the floor tonight is because I have received thousands of letters from parents of children who are autistic, and, as autistic children, they do have these learning disabilities.

These parents believe, and I believe, after having hearings for the past 4 years that their children, many, many of their children, have been damaged by the mercury that was in children's vaccines. We have been putting mercury from a product called thimerosal in children's vaccines since the 1930s, and now that we are giving children 25 to 30 vaccinations before they start into kindergarten, you have a tremendous amount of mercury being built up in their systems.

Mercury has a cumulative effect in the brain. So when you were giving a child one shot, it might not have been so bad. Obviously, you do not want mercury in their system, but the mercury was getting into the brain, and in many cases it was not causing damage. But when you give a child 30 shots before they start into kindergarten, many, many, many of those children are going to have brain damage and neurological damage such as autism.

I have received, as I said, thousands of letters from parents of autistic children from around the country, and I have been coming down here showing

pictures of these children and reading these letters, because the pharmaceutical companies and the Congress of the United States have a responsibility to those families who are suffering financially and mentally from the terrible trauma of autism their children are going through.

It used to be one in 10,000 children were autistic. Now it is 1 in 200. We have had a 50-fold increase in autism in the last 10 to 15 years. It is an absolute epidemic, and something has to be done about it. We have been debating how to handle it in the Congress of the United States.

Every child who is damaged by vaccine should have access to the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund, but many of these children and their families who are autistic have not had access to that fund, and that is why this debate rages on.

In the other body we have had some real problems, and that is why we are trying to bring to the attention of the other body, the leader of the other body, as well as Members of Congress, how deep this problem is and how important it is to the people of this country that we get it solved.

I do not have time to read a lot of letters tonight, but I want to read part of one letter I received. It is many, many pages from a man named James W. Coll. James is from Hanover, Pennsylvania. He has a son, Jacob, who became autistic. He says in his letter, "Jacob is 5. There is no doubt in my mind that my son Jacob has thimerosal-induced autism."

Why does he say that? He says it for the same reason that I say that about my grandson. My grandson was a very normal child, as Jacob probably was, and he was speaking and he was laughing and he was a lot of fun to be around. He actually got nine shots in one day, seven which had mercury in them, and, 2 days later, he was running around banging his head against the wall, flapping his arms, had chronic diarrhea and constipation at the same time, and we lost him. He looked at you blankly. He would not talk any more. He became incommunicado, if you will.

That has happened to thousands and thousands of families across this country. We cannot leave them high and dry. It is costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars. They are mortgaging their homes, they selling everything they have to take care of their children. They did not realize they had access to the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund until the 3-year statute of limitations ran out.

We need to reopen that fund so that every person who has an autistic child has a day in court, if you will, to make their case before the fund to get money to help their child and help their family.

There is \$1.8 billion in that fund. We protected the pharmaceutical companies by allowing them to put so much money in the fund so that they would

not be sued when people are damaged by vaccines. So the people who have been damaged by the vaccines ought to have access to that fund. It should be non-adversarial. It is adversarial right now. They have been keeping people out, they have been keeping children out, and damaged children have been suffering, their families have been suffering, and they have nowhere to turn.

So that is why every night I come down here and show pictures. These are called "The Faces of Autism." We have thousands of these children. I have probably 50 or 60 here. Here is a new one we have. It says on this, "Vaccines Stole My Health, Childhood and Future. Don't Steal My Rights." I think that is very important. We should not steal this child's rights, or any child's rights. They should have access to the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund, they should have access to education.

If we do not deal with these children now, they are going to grow up, they have an average life expectancy, and if they cannot cope with society and we do not deal with them now, we are going to pay 10, 20, 30 times more to take care of them when they are adults and they cannot make a living and cannot function in our society. So it is absolutely imperative.

I say this to my colleagues in the other body and here, we need to pass legislation this year that will give these people access to the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund so that they will have somewhere to turn and they won't be left high and dry.

I will be back here tomorrow night or several nights in the future to bring up other cases, and I hope that we will be able to make this case time and again to the American people until we get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the letter from James W. Coll.

Dear Sir: I would like to begin this letter by telling you a little about myself and my wife Christine. We are both 31 yrs old and have two children. We live in Hanover, Pennsylvania. She is a stay-at-home mom and I am a paramedic for a private company in Washington, DC. My older son James is eight yrs old and my younger son Jacob is 5. There is no doubt in my mind that my son Jacob has thimerosal-induced autism. I am going to tell you my family's story the best way I can. Before I get started I just want to tell you that my heart goes out to you, your daughter and grandchild. I know for me it is the most challenging thing I ever faced. I feel like I can related more to parents of autistic children than my own distant family.

My son Jacob was born on July 21, 1997 in Pittsburgh, PA. He was born by cesarean section because he weighed ten pounds and was too big for a vaginal delivery. His Apgars were normal at birth and there were no complications after delivery. He received his first vaccination, which was the hepatitis one, at the hospital, just like all children in America. During the first few weeks he was home, we noticed he vomited his formula a lot. Some took him to his pediatrician. He was then put on Soy formula and it was thought he might be lactose intolerant. This did not help much. He would still gag and vomit. It wasn't all the time. He was still able to hold enough down to thrive and grow.

The pediatrician told us that this was a problem for some children and that it would subside in time. During the first year of his life he learned to crawl. This milestone appeared normal. There were some things that confused us. He did not like to be sat down in the grass outside, he would cry inconsolably and wanted to be picked up. His eye contact with us was not very good. You could not capture his interest with toys. He liked to be held close to us a lot and would put his face next to ours. He was quiet unless he was hungry or something disturbed him. Sometimes we would push him in the stroller and he would cry when we tried to push him back home. He was very hard to console at these times. We just thought he was different and this was his personality. My mother told me I was a fussy baby. At this point we never suspected autism. We didn't even know anything about autism, outside of the movie Rainman. At a year old he received more immunizations. They were given at one of his pediatrician's offices, Dr. Tuchin. After that we noticed that his glands in his neck, under his armpits and on the back of his head, swelled up. They appeared like little peas under his skin.

His pediatrician told us he had a virus and that this was normal because his body was fighting off infection. She did not feel any testing was necessary. Myself and my wife thought it was and a blood test was ordered at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. The results were unclear. The CMV virus was suspected or a virus that closely mimicked CMV. There wasn't real concern by the physicians in charge of Jacob's care. In fact, we seemed to bother his pediatrician because she was not very nice to us about this problem and wrote little sarcastic notes in his chart about the testing. Otherwise he continued to grow and thrive, despite his food sensitivity and everything else (as in his vital signs and physical appearance appeared normal). His lymph nodes stayed enlarged for about six months from when he was a year old. We were just told it takes a while for them to go back down and it was a good sign because his body was fighting off the virus. From 1½ years old to 2½ years old his food sensitivity continued to be a problem and a lot of solid food made him throw up. We were referred to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Occupational Food Sensitivity Clinic. They observed Jacob eat french fries. They wanted to feed him pudding, which to this day he dislikes. They told us that he had some food sensitivities of an unknown cause and that he needed therapy. The team of therapists who observed him wanted to send a therapist to our house a couple of times a week and teach him to eat different foods. This idea, to us, seemed unnatural. We did not think this would help him. We decided to just keep on feeding him what he liked and he would out grow this. The only things he would eat were chicken and fries, grilled cheese, cookies—basically, anything dry and tasty. He does not eat any vegetables to this day, or wet foods. He always coughed a lot too when he drank liquids. Our doctor told us not to worry, as long as he did not get pneumonia. His speech was very limited at 2 yrs old. Sometimes he could say Mom or Dad, but it wasn't all the time. He would jump up and down a lot and flap his hands in front of the TV. We thought he was just happy and playing. He did not have interests or imaginary play with his toys. He liked only push button toys. In the back of my mind and my wife's we knew he was a little different, but we thought if we just gave him some time he would start talking more and eat more foods, and not be so hyperactive. In February, 2000 we moved to the Washington, DC area because I got a job offer paying more money. We moved to a small 2 bedroom apartment in

Woodbridge, VA. The people downstairs complained a lot because my son jumped up and down and they could hear it. We lived there six months and the management would not renew our lease because of the noise of the jumping and Jacob's tantrums. During this time my wife took Jacob to his new pediatrician, Dr. John Farber. When he was approximately 3 years old, Dr. Farber diagnosed Jacob with Pervasive Developmental Disorder. He told us this term coincided with autism and that Jacob would improve in time or that we should go to Child Find Services in the county in Virginia in which we lived. My wife took Jacob there. It was a hot day and his evaluation took place in a trailer which was not air-conditioned. My son tantrumed and did not like it there. They could not even test him. They agreed with the diagnosis. We later learned that this term is routinely used with children when the child is young and that a physician is not ready to totally label the child autistic. We then took Jacob to Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland for a second opinion. They had a special clinical therapy place called the Kennedy Krieger Institute. There at approximately 3½ years old he was examined by a Dr. Andrew Zimmerman who diagnosed him with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. He also had some bloodwork done which ruled out Fragile X Syndrome. He told us to find a good speech therapist. At that time we had moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia where rent was cheaper and we could afford to live in a nice rental town-home community. We found a speech therapist, but we didn't think this was very effective. She was trying to teach Jacob to talk more with picture cards. We didn't feel this was intense enough. We then learned of a therapy called Applied Behavioral Analyses. We tried to get the Spotsylvania County School District to pay for a 40 hour week program which was recommended by all the six physicians that examined Jacob. We also had his diagnoses confirmed by other physicians. We have diagnoses letters from all of them. We were hoping for a better second opinion. We were hoping Dr. Farber was wrong. The county school services would only pay for 20 hours a week of in-home services. ABA is a therapy that consists of teaching your child tasks, by breaking them down into smaller steps and doing them over and over again, until the child understands. Every verbal sentence is given concrete meaning the child can associate with. This therapy was developed by Dr. Lovas of UCLA. I'm sure you probably heard of it. In September, 2001, we moved back to Pittsburgh, PA and rented a small house. We did this because we found out that Pittsburgh had the Allegheny intermediate unit which paid for these services. This was funded by the State of Pennsylvania. They had a Lovas replication site which taught ABA therapy.

We had Jacob evaluated and we are setting up an in-home therapy workshop for Jacob. After a couple of workshops, though we decided that we did not like the way he was treated they wanted to isolate Jacob when he had a tantrum and ignore him. This seemed very unnatural to us. A lot of people view this therapy as programming a child like a robot. Myself and my wife agree. At least in my son's case, we don't feel it's the answer. After that we decided there was no point in staying in Pittsburgh. Approximately one year ago we purchased a new home in Hanover, PA. My job was still in Washington, DC. When we lived in Pittsburgh, I drove 250 miles to work, stayed the weekend and drove home on Mondays. We chose Hanover because it's the closest you can be to the DC area, and still be in PA. If we ever decide in the future that PA is the

way we want to go, we will still live in PA, which will pay for it. After we moved to Hanover in March 2002 we learned there were doctors who specialized in biologically treating children with autism. They follow a protocol that the Autism Research Institute in San Diego California developed. It's called the Don Protocol. The Autism Research Institute sent us a list of doctors nationwide who were trained by the Autism Research Institute and attend the lectures. Most of these doctors are into homeopathic medicine and don't take health insurance. I make about \$70,000 a year. I definitely didn't have the money left over to privately pay for a physician. We were fortunate and found a doctor in Baltimore, MD which is about 35 miles south of Hanover. His name is Arnold Brenner. He has been treating children with autism and other disabilities for 20 yrs. When we first took Jacob he ordered blood work and a hair analysis. The purpose behind this was to look for a cause of Jacob's autism. Then you can give supplements or change the diet so the child's nervous system is not irritated, thus improving the symptoms. We found out that Jacob was allergic to gluten and casein, and that he had an abnormal reading of mercury in his hair. We were shocked! My son's mercury reading was in the low medium range. Most people don't have any in their body. This also proves that Jacob's body could not detoxify the thimerosal from the immunizations. I feel like my child has been assaulted by the pharmaceutical industry. Mercury is toxic to humans. Science has known this for a long time. Why then has the Ely Lilly Company produced it (thimerosal) for the pharmaceutical manufacturers? They have knowingly poisoned our children. The only thing that keeps me from going crazy is the fact that I love my son and my family. Jacob is being treated with a medication called Chemet. It was previously used to treat lead poisoning. The goal of the therapy is to remove the mercury from the body. His urine is tested every four weeks and sure enough, there are traces of mercury in it. Our doctor told us the only other way he could have gotten mercury in his body was from eating fish, and we don't eat any fish. He also takes daily vitamins that come from a place called Kirkmans Labs, which are specially formulated for artistic individuals. In addition to this, he takes about ten other supplements which support his liver and supplement any other abnormalities in his blood work. We also learned that mercury poisoning can cause allergies to casein and gluten. My son now is on a case/gluten-free diet, which is also recommended during the chelation process. We don't know if the chelation is really working yet. The Doctor tells us that the 20 other children that he is chelating are all making improvements. I don't know if this will work in my son's case. I am hoping and praying. Chelation is a relatively new therapy. It has only been in use for about two years. Jacob's doctor feels Jacob was not born this way and that the immunizations may have caused it. He told me that he has found that when you remove the mercury, the symptoms improve. The Chemet costs about \$500 for a one-month supply. Fortunately my insurance covers it, the blood work, and some of the urine testing. The vitamins are not covered. So far I've spent approximately \$700, in all. My son is going to be six years old in July—July 21st. He is not potty-trained and doesn't understand to go to the bathroom when he has the urge. We are trying to work at this. His speech consists of loudly saying what he wants. Examples are: Cookies! Drink! Chocolate! We can understand it, but it's not real pronounced. He says "stair," to get help over the gate, which is in the doorway of his room. He eats

with his fingers and throws the food he doesn't want on the floor. He rocks on a kitchen chair when he sits in it, on his knees. He'll rock the chair as he kneels on it, while holding onto the backrest with his hands. You have to tell him all day long to turn around and sit down. He'll listen, but thirty seconds later he'll get right back up and rock again. He also likes to jump on the couch and stand on the armrest. Again you have to tell him to get down all day long. He will get right back up and keep doing it. He doesn't understand about danger. Examples are: a hot stove, hot water, falling from heights, such as the couch. He needs to be watched and constantly supervised all day long. He doesn't understand the reasoning behind everything. Examples of this are: "Jacob don't rip the pages out of your book," "Jacob, don't run out in the street." He cannot bathe himself. He cannot write his name or draw simple pictures. We buy him toys that are at a 2-yr-old level. He cannot brush his teeth by himself. He will put it in his mouth, but usually just sucks the tooth paste off it. Sometimes he screams at the top of his lungs for no apparent reason. We know it's a nervous impulse he cannot control. If I tell him to shut the refrigerator door, he might go and do it, but it's after I say it 5 times. He can understand simple instructions, such as "stand up," "sit down," "Jacob, come here" (sometimes). He walks on his tiptoes, frontwards and backwards all day long. When he's home, he takes all his clothes off. He won't sit at our dinner table through the whole meal. He'll get up and run around with food in his mouth. Sometimes he's aggressive and he'll bite or pinch you if he's upset about something. Myself and my wife understand because we love him and we know he has a disorder. Our day consists of getting up, bathing him, getting him to take all his vitamins and Chemet. We use a syringe because he can't tolerate a spoon in his mouth. All his food has to be made and purchased at Health Food Stores. On top of this, you have to watch him while you do all this to make sure he doesn't fall and break his leg or something worse. He likes to take a ride in the car and he'll let you know he wants to, by carrying an article of clothing he wears, over to you, because he usually just walks around at home in his diaper. He knows he has to put clothes on to go outside—although the article of clothing he brings you may not always be his own. He cannot dress himself. You have to help him with zippers and buttons. He may, in the summer, be able to put a pair of stretch elastic shorts on, but he may put them on backwards. You cannot explain to him that the tag on the shorts goes in the back. His joints in his wrists are weak and he has poor muscle tone in his arms. Sometimes his wrists crack. He is very affectionate and will hug me and his mom. His brother, too. He likes to be around us and likes when I wrestle with him. He will say "mom," but sometimes has difficulty saying "dad." I took him in my backyard a couple of days ago and he will toss a big ball with me, if we stand about 3 feet apart. He looked in the sky, saw some birds and said "birds." This gives me hope that the Chemet is working. I hope this gives you a picture of what my son is like. This disorder has also affected my older boy greatly. I can't spend time with James because I have to help my wife watch Jacob. My wife watches Jacob by herself for 72 hours, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday every week. During that time I'm working a 72 hour shift in Washington, DC. I'm a paramedic and work for a private ambulance company. The company is not that busy at night so I am able to get sleep. I'm off Monday through Thursday every week, which is

spent watching Jacob and changing his diapers. This works out well because it gives my wife a break and a chance to go out with my son James. Jacob takes melatonin at night, which helps him sleep. Ninety-five percent of the time now he sleeps a full night. Before he would stay up till 3 a.m. and wake up at 7 a.m. This was exhausting for me and my wife. He goes to bed at midnight now and wakes up at 10 a.m. To change jobs now would be very hard for me. I would like to, but my family needs this break every week. This disorder has limited my career, but I greatly appreciate the flexibility of my employer. When I found out a bill was sneaked into the Homeland Security Act, I was outraged that someone would try to cover this up. I am glad it was removed. As for a 3 year statute of limitations, this should not apply in thimerosal-induced autism. Nobody knowingly decided to inject a harmful substance into their child. We immunized our children because it was recommended to us by the health care industry. I am not proud to be an American. Our standard of living is good and this is also not just a U.S. problem, but a world-wide problem. Our country should have made sure that these immunizations were not given to children. Mercury is toxic! That's why it's not in thermometers. That's why they don't let kids play with it in science class anymore. As soon as they made this discovery about mercury, it should have been removed from the immunizations. I have heard they found out mercury was toxic to humans 20 years ago. But our country still let the Ely Lilly Co. manufacture it to be used in multidose vials of immunizations. Why is it recently that all the manufacturers removed thimerosal from the immunizations? Simply because they know it causes autism. I will only believe in this country again if every family in my situation is compensated, and I don't mean thousands, I mean millions of dollars for each family. And if chelation does work, it needs to be paid for by our government, NO QUESTIONS ASKED. Whoever put thimerosal in immunizations and knew it could cause autism, needs to be punished to the fullest extent of the law! A life sentence for these people would be getting off easy. Congressman BURTON, if you need any copies of my son's testing or medical records, please let me know. I hope the good people on your side of the government are able to overcome the people who knew about this and didn't care about hurting innocent children like my son Jacob.

Yours truly,

JAMES W. COLL.

SELLING MASSIVE TAX CUTS THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT WANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 weeks, President Bush and his advisers have traveled the country, including a visit to my home State, trying to sell their massive tax cut to the American people.

□ 1645

They are wrapping it in fancy paper and calling it a "stimulus package" or an "economic plan." But the American people are not buying it. In fact, many members of the President's own party disagree with this reckless proposal. They can dress this tax cut up any way they want and it is still just that: a tax

cut for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans that does nothing to create jobs and will only sink our Nation further into debt. A tax cut of this size directed to the privileged few will not help our struggling economy no matter what it is called.

I represent the 11th congressional district of Ohio. Since 2001, Ohio alone has lost 167,800 jobs, which is more than 3 percent of its total workforce. In the city of Cleveland, 53,900 jobs have been lost since the President was sworn into office, which is 4.7 percent of its workforce.

Over the last few weeks, I have spoken with many members of the Cleveland business community and most agree on one thing: this tax cut is useless as a tool to help their struggling businesses. For example, local businesses tell me that they are much more likely to invest in new jobs and new technology if they are allowed to write off more of those investments on their taxes, and workers in the health care field feel they are best helped by increased provider reimbursements, not a dividend tax reduction.

What is more, the Republican budget will mean cuts in local services of all kinds. It means fewer qualified teachers in our public schools. It means fewer police to keep our neighborhoods safe. It means fewer firefighters and EMTs to respond to our emergencies, and it means fewer hospitals dedicated to caring for the veterans who have put their lives on the line to protect ours.

We can and we must do better than that.

Democrats are all for cutting taxes. The difference is that we believe in cutting taxes responsibly so that those cuts can serve as fuel to get our economic engines turning again. We believe responsible tax cuts take into account the future as well as the present and do not increase deficits, raise interest rates, or risk jobs.

That is why Democrats have proposed cutting taxes by \$85 billion, and our tax cuts would go to those who really deserve it: hard-working Americans who are most likely to put the extra money back into our economy, and small businesses which need incentives to invest. Our tax cut is a part of a real stimulus package, a \$135 billion plan to put Americans back to work by investing in the things that are most important to them: homeland security, education, health care, and transportation. The difference between these two plans is clear. It is simply a question of priorities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FCC TOO QUICK TO REVISE MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the House the fact that I am now introducing a resolution to express the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Communications Commission should not revise its media ownership rules without more extensive review and comment by the public.

I am doing this because the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Mr. Powell, made an announcement in March that he was going to further revise the rules of the Federal Communications Commission which would make it possible for fewer owners to control the information distribution system in America. In doing so, he is continuing a process which effectively began in the early 1980s when such things as the right of people in communities to express themselves over the airwaves when editorial positions were taken by radio stations with which they did not agree was abolished. This was a provision that existed in the rules of the Federal Communications Commission, and effectively in the laws of our country since the period of the Second World War.

As a result of that change and others, what we have seen is, for example, in the radio area, 80 percent of the radio audience being in effect controlled by three major corporations. In other words, three major corporations broadcast to 80 percent of the radio audience. We have lost diversity in our radio programming. We have lost the very important aspect of local control. We have lost the sense of community in radio and television broadcasting as a result of the changes that were begun during the Reagan administration in the 1980s and, now, are being attempted to continue under the jurisdiction of Mr. Powell, the present chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

What Mr. Powell under the direction of the present administration is doing, is this: he is now going to go beyond the fact that fewer people can control the electronic media, radio and television; he is also going to issue an order, he says, which will allow those same people that control the electronic media to now control increasingly the print media as well. So if one owns a radio station and a television station in a particular service area, one will be able to own the newspapers in that area as well, thanks to the ruling that Mr. Powell is putting forward as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this is a very dangerous thing. I think it is important for us to do everything that we