



August 18, 2015

To:  
The Honorable Governor Peter Shumlin  
The Honorable Speaker Shap Smith  
The Honorable Commissioner Dr. Harry Chen

From: Jennifer Stella and Dorian Yates, on behalf of the Vermont Coalition for Vaccine Choice

**RE: Vaccine Philosophical Exemption in Light of CDC Whistleblower and Allegations of Fraud**

Dear Governor Shumlin, Speaker Smith, and Dr. Chen,

Vermonters who want health choice and medical freedom respectfully call on you to reinstate the philosophical exemption for vaccines. In your rush to repeal the exemption you disregarded critical information about CDC fraud that you were alerted to by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. in his [May 5th testimony before the Vermont House Health Care Committee](#), as well as in private meetings.

Now, three months later, Congressman Bill Posey of Florida reported in his [July 29th statement on the floor of the U.S. House](#), that CDC vaccine safety researcher Dr. William Thompson was present for a meeting in which his colleagues destroyed data demonstrating a clear link between the MMR vaccine and autism. Dr. Thompson retained copies of these documents and turned them over to Congressman Posey, along with thousands of others, which reportedly show that the CDC committed fraud in its vaccine safety research.

CDC whistleblower, William Thompson PhD, co-led three major vaccine safety studies while working at the Immunization Safety Branch of the CDC, including a study on measles-mumps-rubella vaccine and autism that has been heralded by vaccine proponent, Dr. Paul Offit, as “*definitive*.” However, more than a decade after the 2004 publication of the study in the Journal of Pediatrics, Thompson admits that he and his co-authors “intentionally withheld controversial findings” and that statistically significant correlations were found, but that these controversial findings went “into a huge garbage can.” Clearly, the CDC’s science regarding the vaccine-autism link is *not* “settled” or “definitive.”

Kennedy’s testimony unmistakably warned you about Dr. Thompson’s disclosures and CDC “corruption, mismanagement, and dysfunction with alarming conflicts of interest suborning its

research, regulatory, and policymaking functions.” Kennedy advised that, “Ending exemptions is premature until we have a functioning regulatory agency and a transparent process.”

No questions were asked of Kennedy at the Vermont hearings and no investigations were made. Now, Congressman Posey is offering the whistleblower documents to any and all members of Congress for review—we urge you to ask Vermont’s Congressional delegation to obtain and review these documents.

With Congressional hearings on CDC research fraud and malfeasance on the horizon, the Vermont Coalition for Vaccine Choice is calling for reinstatement of the philosophical exemption—the only responsible action in the face of illegal cover-ups of fraudulent vaccine science and safety information.

Those who want toxin-free water are not called “anti-water,” just as those who insist on transparency, honesty safety and choice should not be called “anti-vaccine.” When the ethical conduct of a government agency is called into question, our children and grandchildren deserve nothing more than a full investigation and the right to maintain free choice in medical risk-taking.

We ask for your support, and the favor of your reply.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stella (802) 917 3230; Dorian Yates (802) 280 5762  
*On behalf of members of the Vermont Coalition for Vaccine Choice*



## **BRIEFING: CDC Whistleblower / Allegations of Fraud (Background Information)**

In August of 2014, a vaccine safety scientist at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) admitted through his lawyers<sup>1</sup> that he had participated in a cover-up of data showing links between the MMR vaccine and autism while working at the CDC.

The whistleblower, William Thompson PhD, co-led three major vaccine safety studies while working at the Immunization Safety Branch of the CDC, including a study on measles-mumps-rubella vaccine and autism that has been heralded by vaccine proponents as “*definitive.*”

On May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. alerted Vermont lawmakers during testimony<sup>2</sup> that the Centers for Disease Control is a, “cesspool of corruption, mismanagement, and dysfunction with alarming conflicts of interest suborning its research, regulatory, and policymaking functions.” He cautioned lawmakers that, when it comes to vaccines, “there is no one left to stand between a greedy industry and vulnerable children, except parents.”

On July 29, 2015, Rep. Bill Posey brought to the floor of the House of Representatives news that Dr. Thompson has turned over to Congress documents relevant to alleged fraud and malfeasance at CDC, and has agreed to testify on the events. During a 5 min. floor speech<sup>3</sup>, Congressman Posey read from a letter from Dr. Thompson in which Thompson admits that he and his co-authors “intentionally withheld controversial findings” and that statistically significant correlations were found, but that these controversial findings went “into a huge garbage can.”

At this time, 1 in 68 American children (1 in 42 boys) have autism, and chronic autoimmune and neurological diseases are skyrocketing.

*The Vermont Coalition for Vaccine Choice is a non-partisan, grassroots advocacy group that defends vaccination choice as a human right. The group advocates for the freedom to make informed health choices whether as parents or as individuals, without coercion or interference.*

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<sup>1</sup> Morgan Verkamp Press Release: <http://www.morganverkamp.com/august-27-2014-press-release-statement-of-william-w-thompson-ph-d-regarding-the-2004-article-examining-the-possibility-of-a-relationship-between-mmr-vaccine-and-autism/>

<sup>2</sup> Video of Kennedy testimony to Vermont House: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2UJ2oBeya0>

Written Kennedy Testimony: <http://www.vaxchoicevt.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RFK-Jr-Testimony-H982.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Video of Posey speech on Floor of U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.c-span.org/video/?c4546890/posey-cdc-autism>.