

Why is Congress holding hearings on a couple hundred cases of measles in a country of 330 million people? Measles was considered a routine childhood inconvenience a generation ago. There have been no deaths, very few hospitalizations, and the paltry number of cases obviously indicates that federal action is not necessary. Why not have a hearing instead on the out-of-control growth of autism? Every year we see 50,000 to 100,000 new cases per year, but that public health catastrophe does not seem to merit even a comment from Congress

Clearly, the \$20+ billion vaccine industry is creating hysteria over a trivial measles outbreak to eliminate vaccination rights in the US. It's a program that worked successfully in California, France, Italy, Croatia and Romania, why not the rest of the United States?

But the facts just don't support the hype. "Overall vaccination coverage among young children remained high and stable in the United States in 2017," according to the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on October 12, 2018.

The vaccine industry's claim that measles vaccination rates are falling are not supported by the federal government's own statistics. According to the CDC's National Immunization Survey, there was no change in the percentage of children who received one or more MMR vaccines from 2013 through 2017, holding steady at around 91.5% with no statistically significant changes for the past 5 years. Children who are unvaccinated make up less than 1% of all children and pose no threat to achieving the herd immunity.

The hearings should focus instead on the failure of the vaccine industry to meet basic safety standards, required of drugs, in the testing of safety and efficacy, but not applied to vaccines. The hearings should question the need for mandatory vaccines in the US when the standard in the rest of the developed democracies is for government agencies to recommend, with the decision to vaccinate or not left to parents and individuals.

We are in extremely dangerous territory when we start believing that we can mandate any medical decisions for human beings. It's a violation of our civil rights.

Sincerely,  
Sherry Russo-Card  
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