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Date: 12/16/96

To: Elizabeth Dwyer

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Comments: per my e-mail

→ Sorry Elizabeth - I forgot to fax this!

Money

Frank Lalli
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November 11, 1996

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Allow me to call to your attention a groundbreaking article in the enclosed December issue of MONEY, titled "The Lethal Dangers of the Billion-Dollar Vaccine Business." This story, by award-winning medical writer Andrea Rock, raises serious questions about the dangers our children are exposed to both routinely and unnecessarily through vaccinations.

A four-month MONEY investigation has uncovered an alarming pattern in which pharmaceutical firms, the federal government and the nation's doctors have put our children at risk of contracting incurable, potentially fatal diseases such as polio and suffering vaccine side effects such as permanent brain damage.

These risks accompany the vaccinations we are bound, morally if not legally, to let pediatricians administer to our kids. For example, conventional American medical wisdom says that polio vaccinations can sometimes, albeit rarely, cause the very diseases they are meant to prevent. It's the nature of the beast, we've been told. Those who are infected can chalk it up to fate.

But as MONEY reports, that premise is false. As the magazine details, the risks apply primarily to vaccines that are developed in certain ways, often the cheapest. Yet far safer alternative vaccines are not only available today (and are currently in use in other countries, including Japan and Canada), they have been available for decades in some cases.

As the nation's leading service magazine, MONEY takes its role as an advocate for our 10 million readers very seriously. Our article calls for a total ban on dangerous vaccines (similar to public policy in Japan), vastly expanded research into the nature of immunization and full disclosure of the risks of common vaccines and their alternatives.

I would welcome your reaction to this article—pro or con—with an eye toward sharing your thoughts with our readers.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Frank Lalli

A Time Warner Company



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Washington D.C. 20201

FACSIMILE

DATE

12/20

TO:

Elizabeth D.

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FROM:

Bill Corr
Counselor to the Secretary

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As requested

Caron

RECIPIENT'S FAX NUMBER: () _____

NUMBER OF PAGES TO SEND (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) _____

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COMMENTS:

Date letter was signed
is Nov. 19, 1996.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Public Health and Science
Washington D.C. 20201

Daphne Mosher
Letters to the Editor
MONEY magazine
Time Life Building
New York, New York 10020

NOV 11 1983

Dear Ms. Mosher,

In response to your December article, "The Lethal Dangers of the Billion-Dollar Vaccine Business," I am writing to correct some of the most glaring inaccuracies in the piece and address some of its mistaken conclusions. As someone who has more than four decades of experience in public health, I am extremely concerned about the article's potential for creating unwarranted fears in parents about vaccinating their children. Let me be clear: vaccines are safe and effective, and they save children's lives. Through timely immunization, we have been able to virtually eliminate diseases that, only a generation ago, would kill and disable thousands of children in the United States every year.

Parental trust in the nation's immunization program has been and always will be critical to its success. Our nation's scientific, medical, and public health experts safeguard that trust through rigorous research and careful consideration of the risks and benefits of each vaccine before recommending them for children or adults.

Occasionally, individuals do experience side effects from vaccines, as is true for most products. However, serious side effects are extremely rare. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) insists that doctors inform parents of any known risks, as well as the substantial benefits.

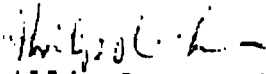
Nonetheless, our goal is to reduce even minimal risks to zero, and that's why both CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have made vaccine safety a top priority. For example, the FDA recently approved an acellular pertussis vaccine that protects infants against whooping cough with fewer side-effects, and CDC has recommended a revised childhood immunization schedule for polio that will be safer, and yet just as effective, as previous recommendations in preventing disease among our children. Your article dismisses these facts.

In regard to any possible link between the SV40 virus in vaccines and human tumors, which your piece mentions, let me again state the facts: since 1961, the FDA has required manufacturers to test vaccines for the SV40 virus and show that vaccines are virus-free. We have carefully followed research on this issue for more than 30 years and believe that any connection is speculative. However, several agencies within the Public Health Service are sponsoring a meeting in early 1997 that will bring together scientists and public health officials to further review this issue.

As science advances, discoveries will be made not only in the area of vaccines, but in other fields of medicine as well. We always regret the injury of even a single child, and we urge vaccine manufacturers to continue to work on safer and more effective vaccines. Our top priority is to continue the kind of scientific research and rigorous oversight that has brought us this far.

In the United States today, childhood immunization rates are at all-time highs, and vaccine-preventable diseases such as diphtheria, polio, and mumps are at all-time lows. However, we cannot afford to become complacent. We must ensure that all children are adequately immunized against ten life-threatening diseases from birth to age two. We must encourage parents to discuss their children's immunization with a trusted health care provider. And, we must continue our commitment to making the safest and most effective vaccines available for all of our nation's children.

Sincerely yours,


Phillip Lee, M.D.
Assistant Secretary for Health