

News From...



## The Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness

Chairman Dan Burton (R ~ IN)



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### **OLD PROBLEM, NEW SOLUTIONS: ARE WE ANY CLOSER TO FINDING A CURE FOR AUTISM?**

Washington, D.C. - According to a recent *Autism Alert* released by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the American Academy of Pediatrics, 1 out of every 6 children is presently diagnosed with a developmental disorder and/or behavioral problem. Even more alarming, currently 1 out of every 166 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with some type of Autism Spectrum Disorder, and these numbers only continue to escalate.

As part of his ongoing investigation into the autism epidemic, Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN), Chairman of the U.S. House Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights & Wellness, is convening a hearing to further examine the Federal government's progress in their effort to eradicate autism. The oversight hearing, entitled **"Autism Spectrum Disorders: An Update of Federal Government Initiatives and Revolutionary New Treatments of Neurodevelopmental Diseases,"** will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2004, in Room 2247 of the Rayburn House Office Building at 2:00 p.m. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine groundbreaking new treatments that are being shown to improve the medical condition of children and adults afflicted with autism.

"History teaches us that debilitating diseases like autism do not simply go away," stated Chairman Burton. "I am encouraged that many of my colleagues in Congress, as well as our health officials, are finally starting to wake-up to this realization, and devote the necessary attention and resources to understand, and ultimately cure autism."

The U.S. government has rightfully begun to acknowledge the present and future public health implications of the autism epidemic by establishing the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC). In addition, our health agencies have begun to fund various autism related research projects, as well as initiate training programs in order to better enable educators across the country that deal with the increasing incidences of developmental disorders within their student populations.

In recent years, medical professionals and researchers have made significant progress in developing effective treatments and therapies that are being shown to benefit individuals suffering from autism. Because research shows that autistic individuals typically

have a high concentration of mercury, a highly dangerous neurotoxin, stored within their bodies, scientists have developed methods to remove this poisonous metal. Two prime examples are: (1) Chelation therapy - the injection of an intravenous solution that disposes and collects mercury to be flushed out of the body - and (2) Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy - the delivery of pressurized oxygen to assist with regeneration of neurons in brain-injured individuals. Expert witnesses will be present to discuss these treatments at the hearing.

### **PANEL ONE WITNESSES:**

#### **Representative (*invited*)**

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC)  
United States Department of Health & Human Services

#### **The Honorable Troy Justesen**

Assistant Secretary (*Acting*)  
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services  
United States Department of Education

### **PANEL TWO WITNESSES:**

#### **Dr. Rashid Buttar, DO**

Creator of a Transdermal Chelator  
Cornelius, NC

#### **Dr. Paul Harch, MD**

President  
International Hyperbaric Medical Association

#### **Dr. Ken Stoller, MD**

Hyperbaric Practitioner  
Santa Fe, NM

#### **Ms. Julie Gordon**

Founder and Director  
MUMS - Mothers United for Moral Support

For more information regarding Chairman Burton's ongoing autism investigation, or to see hearing resource materials, please visit the Subcommittee's website at [www.reform.house.gov/WHR](http://www.reform.house.gov/WHR).