



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 49

Chairperson: Joel Johnson
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: January 26, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 49 will prohibit the use of ethyl mercury as a preservative in childhood vaccines. Ethyl mercury, also known as thimerosal, on its material safety sheet has a skull and cross bones on the label to identify it as a dangerous ingredient. Thimerosal is the only ingredient in the drugs that hasn't gone through its own testing to determine all of the risks associated with its use. Thimerosal is only used in multidose vials as a preservative. In single dose vials there is little to no risk of contamination so thimerosal isn't used in single dose vials. Every year that goes by that we continue to debate this issue we see the results of more parents rejecting the childhood vaccinations unless there is a thimerosal-free alternative. Parents should not have to ask for the safer product. We should simply ban the use of thimerosal in childhood vaccines. By doing so we will strengthen our vaccination programs, while failing to do so will only continue to weaken that system.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Carol Hudkins