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Friday, September 5, 2008

100 parents gather in Middletown to ask Obama about vaccination choice

MIDDLETOWN - Over 100 people from New Jersey and New York are gathering on the front lawn of a private residence in Middletown, New Jersey on Friday afternoon to tell Senator Obama that America urgently needs vaccination choice and vaccine policy reform.

Senator Obama is in town as the guest of honor at a Democratic National Committee fundraising reception. The event is co-hosted by Gov. Corzine and Middletown residents, Dorothea and Jon Bon Jovi and Tammy and Phil Murphy.

"Parents are deeply concerned about the consequences of increased, forced vaccination in America," says Middletown resident Louise Kuo Habakus. "We want Senator Obama to know that we welcome him warmly. We would appreciate the opportunity to share our views with him and ask him some questions. We look forward to hearing a clear statement of his position on the issue."

"New Jersey is the most vaccinated jurisdiction in the world. And for our high levels of compliance, we have huge numbers of sick and damaged children," says Habakus.

And she has this message for Barack Obama: "Millions of American children are suffering from neuroimmune disorders. The CDC says one in 60 boys in New Jersey has autism. This is nothing short of a crisis. As a largely untested leader, Senator Obama, the mandate of your nomination lies solely in your promise to deliver change. Our greatest presidents made history by demonstrating exceptional political courage during a crisis. Do you have the stomach to do what must be done?"

Habakus has been delivering parent vaccine choices seminars to packed rooms across New Jersey. Since they live two houses from the reception location, she and her husband Ronald Habakus invited friends and supporters to join them on their front lawn with banners and signs.

"The one-day response has been overwhelming. Entire families are joining together in strong support and with one shared voice. We're telling Senator Obama that, wherever he goes, we are there," says Habakus.

The parents hope that Senator Obama will take a few minutes from his fundraising festivities to talk with the group. "We're respectful and exceptionally informed. Please listen and talk with us. Tell us why we should vote for you," says Habakus.

Habakus is a member of the New Jersey Coalition for Vaccination Choice, a large group that includes local, state and national organizations, parents, physicians, attorneys, scientists and other professionals.

New Jersey recently added four new mandated vaccines to the state's minimal immunization schedule for school attendance. One of these is the highly controversial and widely unpopular flu vaccine. The flu shot is now mandated for New Jersey children as young as six months of age as a requirement for daycare and preschool. It is the first time that the flu shot is being mandated anywhere in the world.

posted by Trentonian at [12:44 PM](#)

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