

Editorial Department
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To the Editor:

We at the Immunization Action Coalition applaud Thursday's editorial recognizing the parallels between the parents of Danny Hauser and parents who fail to immunize their children against life-threatening diseases.

Parents should know that U.S. vaccine recommendations come from an open process led by the brightest minds in pediatrics, immunology, infectious disease, epidemiology, and other relevant disciplines. The result is a vaccine schedule that protects children at the age when vaccination is safe, effective, and needed, while incorporating the flexibility to address individual circumstances. It is not a "one size fits all" regimen, as is sometimes claimed.

Sixteen of the victims of last year's measles outbreaks were babies too young to have received measles vaccine. Infants still die every year of whooping cough because their families and visitors have not received pertussis vaccine. Invasive Hib disease hospitalized five Minnesota children in 2008, killing one. The choice to opt out of immunization is a choice to endanger others.

Think of others. Listen to your healthcare provider and the CDC. Immunize your children.

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Executive Director