



*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion is  
the firmest friend of truth.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**APRIL 13, 2005**

## **Senator Norma Champion's Bill Banning Mercury Receives Final Passage**

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Senate gave final approval today to a measure sponsored by State Sen. Norma Champion protecting pregnant women and young children from the potential dangers of mercury.

Beginning April 1, 2007, Senate Bills 74 and 49 prohibit administering immunizations containing more than 1 microgram of mercury to children less than 3 years of age and pregnant women. The bill also provides that health insurance cover mercury-free immunizations at the same rate.

“The possibility of mercury being dangerous to children is reason enough to take precautions as soon as possible,” Champion said. “This law protects those most vulnerable to the chemical’s hazards.”

Since the 1940s, mercury has been used as a preservative in vaccines. Studies have indicated a possible correlation between exposure to mercury and cognitive development, resulting in learning disabilities, hyperactivity and Autism.

“Immunizations are intended to prevent harm, not cause it,” Champion said. “Until more research is done, we should play it safe and find an alternative way to stabilize vaccines so our children are out of harm’s way.”

The measure now heads to the House where it will receive similar consideration. Once approved there, it will be sent to the governor to be signed into law.

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