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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

INFORMED CONSENT ACTION NETWORK,

Plaintiff,

-against-

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

Defendant.

STIPULATION

18-cv-03215 (JMF)

WHEREAS, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-27, entitled “Mandate for safer childhood vaccines,” provides as follows:

(a) General rule

In the administration of this part and other pertinent laws under the jurisdiction of the Secretary [of the Department of Health and Human Services], the Secretary shall—

(1) promote the development of childhood vaccines that result in fewer and less serious adverse reactions than those vaccines on the market on December 22, 1987, and promote the refinement of such vaccines, and

(2) make or assure improvements in, and otherwise use the authorities of the Secretary with respect to, the licensing, manufacturing, processing, testing, labeling, warning, use instructions, distribution, storage, administration, field surveillance, adverse reaction reporting, and recall of reactogenic lots or batches, of vaccines, and research on vaccines, in order to reduce the risks of adverse reactions to vaccines.

...

(c) Report

Within 2 years after December 22, 1987, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate a report describing the

actions taken pursuant to subsection (a) of this section during the preceding 2-year period.

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2017, Informed Consent Action Network (“ICAN”) submitted a Freedom of Information Act request (the “FOIA Request”) to the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS” or the “Department”), which was assigned control number 2017-01119-FOIA-OS, that sought the following records:

Any and all reports transmitted to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate by the Secretary of HHS pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §300aa-27(c).

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2018, ICAN filed a Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York against HHS seeking records, if any, responsive to the FOIA Request;

WHEREAS, the HHS Immediate Office of the Secretary (“IOS”) maintains the official correspondence file of the Secretary of HHS, including reports to Congress by the Secretary of HHS, and therefore those files were most likely to contain records responsive to the FOIA Request;

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2018, HHS sent ICAN the following response to the FOIA Request:

The [Department]’s searches for records did not locate any records responsive to your request. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Immediate Office of the Secretary (IOS) conducted a thorough search of its document tracking systems. The Department also conducted a comprehensive review of all relevant indexes of HHS Secretarial Correspondence records maintained at Federal Records Centers that remain in the custody of HHS. These searches did not locate records responsive to your request, or indications that records responsive to your request and in the custody of HHS are located at Federal Records Centers.

WHEREAS, ICAN believes the foregoing response from HHS now resolves all claims asserted in this action;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and between the parties by and through their respective counsel:

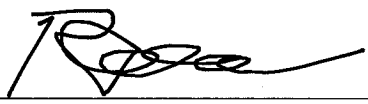
1. That the above-captioned action is voluntarily dismissed, with prejudice, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii), each side to bear its own costs, attorney fees, and expenses; and

2. That this stipulation may be signed in counterparts, and that electronic (PDF) signatures may be deemed originals for all purposes.

Dated: July 6, 2018
New York, New York

KENNEDY & MODONNA LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff


By:


Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
48 Dewitt Mills Road
Hurley, NY 12443
(845) 481-2622


Dated: July 6, 2018
New York, New York

GEOFFREY S. BERMAN
United States Attorney
Attorney for Defendant

By:


ANTHONY J. SUN
Assistant United States Attorney
86 Chambers Street, Third Floor
New York, New York 10007
(212) 637-2810
anthony.sun@usdoj.gov

SO ORDERED:


HON. JESSE M. FURMAN, U.S.D.J.

Dated: New York, New York
July 6, 2018

Any pending motions are moot. All conferences are vacated. The Clerk of Court is directed to close the case.



Informed Consent Action Network

For Immediate Release: July 13, 2018

US District Court Judge signs order granting Plaintiff, Informed Consent Action Network (ICAN) and counsel, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the relief sought in a lawsuit against the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

On Monday, June 9th, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York signed an order granting Plaintiff, the nonprofit Informed Consent Action Network (ICAN), the relief it sought against the Defendant, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, HHS. ICAN was represented by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

In May 2017, ICAN Founder, Del Bigtree, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and a handful of other individuals concerned about vaccine safety were selected by the White House to participate in a seminal meeting with the Counselor to the Secretary of HHS, the heads of the National Institute of Health, NIH, the Center for Disease Control, CDC, and Food and the Drug Administration, FDA. Del Bigtree and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. suspected that HHS was not fulfilling its critical vaccine safety obligations as required by Congress in The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986.

The 1986 Act granted unprecedented, economic immunity to pharmaceutical companies for injuries caused by their products and eviscerated economic incentive for them to manufacture safe vaccine products or improve the safety of existing vaccine products. Congress therefore charged the Secretary of HHS with the explicit responsibility to assure vaccine safety.

Hence, since 1986, HHS has had the primary and virtually sole responsibility to make and assure improvements in the licensing, manufacturing, adverse reaction reporting, research, safety and efficacy testing of vaccines in order to reduce the risk of adverse vaccine reactions. In order to assure HHS meets its vaccine safety obligations, Congress required as part of the 1986 Act that the Secretary of HHS submit a biennial reports to Congress detailing the improvements in vaccine safety made by HHS in the preceding two years.

ICAN therefore filed a Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, request on August 25th, 2017 to HHS seeking copies of the biennial reports that HHS was supposed to submit to Congress, starting in 1988, detailing the improvements it made every two years to vaccine safety. HHS stonewalled ICAN for eight months refusing to provide any substantive response to this request.



Informed Consent Action Network

ICAN was therefore forced to file a lawsuit to force HHS to either provide copies of its biennial vaccine safety reports to Congress or admit it never filed these reports. The result of the lawsuit is that HHS had to finally and shockingly admit that it never, not even once, submitted a single biennial report to Congress detailing the improvements in vaccine safety. This speaks volumes to the seriousness by which vaccine safety is treated at HHS and heightens the concern that HHS doesn't have a clue as to the actual safety profile of the now 29 doses, and growing, of vaccines given by one year of age.

In contrast, HHS takes the other portions of the 1986 Act, which require promoting vaccine uptake, very seriously, spending billions annually and generating a steady stream of reports on how to improve vaccine uptake. Regrettably, HHS has chosen to focus on its obligation to increase vaccine uptake and defend against any claim vaccines cause harm in the National Injury Vaccine Compensation Program (aka, the Vaccine Court) to such a degree that it has abandoned its vaccine safety responsibilities. If HHS is not, as confirmed in Court this week, even fulfilling the simple task of filing a biennial report on vaccine safety improvements, there is little hope that HHS is actually tackling the much harder job of actually improving vaccine safety.

For additional information or interviews please contact:

Catharine Layton, COO, ICAN

cat@icandecide.org (512) 522-8739