

**NVIC Public Comment**  
**Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines – June 7, 2013**  
**Theresa Wrangham, NVIC Executive Director**

My name is Theresa Wrangham. I am the Executive Director for the National Vaccine Information Center and I want to thank the committee today for the opportunity to offer public comment.

The only comment I would like to make today is with regard to the report on the additional table and the subsequent discussion on data mining and providing some transparency with regard to cases that are settled, what amounts they are settled for, what injuries and so on.

This is a public trust issue; it's a transparency issue. The public has the right to know what types of compensations are being made. At the same time we very much respect the concerns expressed around privacy. However, I think this can be broken down by vaccine by injury award per year and yet greatly respect privacy. The information is available now, but you have to know where to look and it shouldn't be incumbent upon the public to sort that out. It should just be a matter of public information. I think there is a way to do this, but perhaps there is a lack of will to do so.

With regard to concerns of misleading the public or the media by providing such information, and that higher level of transparency, it is very easy to put information on the internet and provide a glossary of terms much like you see during your meetings explaining exactly what is settlement; what do these terms mean. By providing that information, as well as that award information, you're providing that higher degree of transparency that goes directly to the issue of public trust.

I would encourage the committee to consider these factors and revisit this subject.

Thank you.