



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

JUDITH A. SALERNO, M.D., M.S.
Executive Director

April 8, 2009

Kelli Ann Davis
D.C. Political Liaison
Generation Rescue
19028 Ventura Blvd, Suite 219
Tarzana, CA 91356

Dear Ms. Davis:

Thank you for your letter dated April 1, 2009, concerning the Institute of Medicine's Committee to Review Adverse Effects of Vaccines.

As described on our website, <http://www.nationalacademies.org/studycommitteeprocess.pdf>, committee appointments are considered provisional until the 20-day formal public comment period elapses and the provisional committee members have participated in a thorough bias and conflict-of-interest discussion. This discussion is conducted in closed session at a committee's first meeting. The Committee to Review Adverse Effects of Vaccines will have its first meeting on April 20, 2009.

We appreciate the suggestions you made on the committee's composition and its charge. The development of a committee is a dynamic process, and members are sometimes added to or dropped from a provisional committee roster for a variety of reasons before it becomes final. Changes are also sometimes made in the composition of a committee during the course of its deliberations, particularly when a specific expertise not currently represented on the committee is needed because of the direction the committee's work has taken. We will give your comments, as well as all others that we receive, serious consideration as we seek to put together a capable and balanced committee.

As mentioned, the first meeting of the committee is April 20, 2009. Following the closed session, a portion of the meeting will be open to the public and you are invited to attend. The agenda and other meeting information are posted online at www.IOM.edu/VaccineAdverseEffects.

Again, thank you for providing comments about this committee and its important task.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Salerno, M.D., M.S.

cc: Harvey V. Fineberg, M.D., Ph.D.
Kathleen Stratton, Ph.D.