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DURATION

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15 SPEAKERS

Del Bigtree

Jenn Sherry Parry, Executive Producer, The Highwire

Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund

Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary of HHS, Former Presidential Candidate, Environmental Attorney

Donald Trump, 45th & 47th U.S. President

Female Speaker

Peter Marks, MD. Former Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA

Female News Correspondent

Bill Posey, (R) Former U.S. Representative for Florida

Colleen Boyle, PhD, Director National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the CDC

Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel

Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine

Male Speaker

Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground

START OF TRANSCRIPT

**[00:00:05] Del Bigtree**

Have you noticed that this show doesn't have any commercials? I'm not selling you diapers or vitamins or smoothies or gasoline. That's because I don't want any corporate sponsors telling me what I can investigate or what I can say. Instead, you are our sponsors. This is a production by our nonprofit, the Informed Consent Action Network. So if you want more investigations, if you want landmark legal wins, if you want hard hitting news, if you want the truth, go to ICANdecide.org and donate now. Alright everyone, are we ready? Yeah.

**[00:00:44] Jenn Sherry Parry, Executive Producer, The Highwire**

Let's do this.

**[00:00:46] Del Bigtree**

Action!

**[00:01:01] Del Bigtree**

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Wherever you are out there in the world, it's time for us all to step out onto the Highwire. I just got back last night from Washington, DC, and I can say right now something I don't think I've ever thought I would say, which is big things are happening right now in Washington, DC. I was lucky enough to be right there in the Hubert Humphrey Building, the HHS building, to watch the incredible statements, first press conference by HHS secretary, and he focused it on autism. We're going to get into those details coming up. Also had some amazing meetings with brilliant people that are really trying to make a difference right now and take advantage of the opportunities that exist right here in the United States of America and what's taking place. But first, I want to make an announcement. We did something that we almost never, ever do, which was we bailed out of our release of the Peter Marks the real Peter Marks press conference was scheduled for yesterday, May 6th. We were going to put out the timeline and the full versions with, all of the interactions and things that we had put together yesterday, which is dynamic. We were ready to go, but we just decided with the announcement by Robert Kennedy Junior that we didn't want to interfere with that news cycle.

**[00:02:23] Del Bigtree**

There's no reason to be competing. He's worked so hard to get there. So many of us have worked so hard to be in this situation. Let's really just let that story run its course. And next week, we're looking at next week. And I can tell you, I've got some Intel, some really big announcements coming next week too. So we're like, okay, let's just push it down. So we're going to do that release in early May. On May 6th, of course, is where we're, pushing that to. We believe that this story, is what we call evergreen. It is damning and powerful and incredible, but we wanted to get the attention that it deserves, especially by mainstream media. But that means it gives you more time to have everyone you know go back and watch last week's show where we really broke it down, the major sound bites that are in there. So many of you wrote in what a powerful show that was. Peter Marks just really is outed for the, the type of person he really is. Not the version we're seeing in mainstream media, but a great show.

**[00:03:27] Del Bigtree**

We're really looking forward to that announcement. But again, you know, we got to be thinking about news cycles right now. And we really want the attention on the great work that's being done for the first time, inside of HHS. We're going to get to that in a little bit. But first a lot of times, you think of a movie, you think of all the people. Or then there's times where I grew up in, my dad would always say, what one man can do is change the world. Yeah. And, one of the things that's becoming very clear in the work that I'm doing is that what one warrior mom can do, is maybe more powerful than anything I've ever seen. And one warrior mom has achieved something in taking, of course, working with other great people, but has just delivered Idaho with the most, sweeping, comprehensive medical freedom bill has been signed that we have ever seen in this country. It's incredible. I'm talking about Leslie Manookian. And if you don't know who she is, just imagine if you were, representing your government. And this woman stepped up to the podium and had this to say.

**[00:04:35] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

Mr. chairman, Committee, my name is Leslie Manookian. I'm from Ketchum. Um, I run a nationally recognized nonprofit, but I'm here in my personal capacity as a concerned citizen of the state of Idaho. Growing up, I could have never, ever imagined that Idaho would become a place that locked its people down. Forced citizens to cover their faces, stand on floor markers six feet apart, or produce proof of vaccination in order to enter a venue or a business. But that is exactly what happened in the last five years. People lost their jobs, suffered isolation, mental health issues, were denied participation in normal society, and dozens even died. That's the statistics that we have, all on the basis of empty promises, if not outright dishonesty, from some members of our federal government. These are the reasons I'm here today, because I want Idaho to lead the nation in ensuring that such intrusions into our personal health decisions never occurs again. I truly believe that no right is more fundamental than the right to determine what we put into and on our bodies. Medical interventions. I mean, it should be something that is just obvious right on its face. If someone else can force us to do something to our bodies For someone else's benefit or for their concerns, then we're not truly free.

**[00:05:55] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

The Idaho Medical Freedom Act, sponsored by Senator Forman, would restore this ethical principle in Idaho and ensure that Idaho stands as a beacon of liberty in deciding, or in declaring that no individual will be coerced into receiving a medical intervention against their will. It ensures that employment, education, entertainment and public participation remain accessible to all, regardless of their medical choices. The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the American ideal that individuals have the right to make deeply held personal medical decisions without interference or coercion. The right to make one's own medical decisions is not granted by the government. It is not a privilege subject to approval. It is a sacred, God given, inalienable right woven into the very fabric of our constitutional Republic. I urge you, Mr. Chairman, and the Committee, to vote yes on S 1023. Medical freedom should not be a partizan issue. This is about the fundamental right of every individual to make medical decisions for themselves. If we fail to defend this principle now, what comes next? So I ask you all to let Idaho be that model. Let Idaho be the example, the shining light on the hill and vote yes on S 1023. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee.

**[00:07:14] Del Bigtree**

As I said, it's one of the most comprehensive and sweeping bills. Let me just read you a couple of the statements. This is a multi-page document that is just filled end to end with power to the people. But "medical mandates prohibited. Section one, a business entity doing business in the state of Idaho, shall not refuse to provide any service product, admission to a venue or transportation to a person because that person has or has not received or used a medical intervention." Here's another section. Section four "a school operating in the state of business subject to chapter 11, title 39 Idaho Code operating the state shall not mandate a medical intervention for any person to attend, enter campus or buildings, or be employed subject to the requirements of the Idaho Parental Rights Act, section 32 1010." All of those numbers and "section 33 205 Idaho Code. For the purpose of this subsection, private and parochial schools shall be considered as having the same authority as school districts under section 33, five, 12." And then this section five, "unless required by federal law, no state, county, or local government entity or official in Idaho shall require any person to receive or use a medical intervention." This is an incredible victory. It was not an easy one. It's my honor and pleasure to be joined right now by Leslie Manookian. Leslie, first of all, congratulations to you and the incredible team around you that made this happen.

**[00:08:40] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

Thanks so much, Del. Yeah, thanks so much for having me on. And just watching that intro brought tears to my eyes. It's just incredible that that is actually now, you know, in law in the state of Idaho and paves the way for the rest of the country, I hope. It's just unbelievable how far we came. And I really want to say that my hats off to all the people who helped make this possible, because it was thousands and thousands of Idahoans contacting, um, the legislature, contacting the governor, in addition to my, um, fellow sisters in this fight, Miste Karlfeldt and Sarah Clendenin, and then the legislative people, I mean, the people in the House were incredible. Representative Rob Beiswenger and Representative Josh Tanner were really instrumental in making this happen.

**[00:09:26] Del Bigtree**

I think when I first heard about this law, or in many of us just thought, Idaho already has the best. I think religious exemptions are strong there. I remember years ago saying Idaho basically just passed a law. You can write your exemption on a piece of toilet paper and it has to be accepted. I mean, it's like they're really pushing the envelope. What made you think that there was, another law needed. Why was this law needed in your mind? Where you felt like your exemptions were falling short there in Idaho?

**[00:09:58] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

Yeah. So? So, Del, you may recall that I made a documentary film on vaccines called The Greater Good many years ago. And that whole process of making that film, raising the money for it, really impressed upon me the imperative of medical freedom for all. And, um, that was just brought to, you know, back to me in sharp relief during Covid. I live in an area that is populated in large part by people from Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Seattle, D.C. and these people have brought their their, um, views with them, unfortunately. And it's kind of changed the, the shape, the, the state of the state. And what happened in Covid in my area was that you could not go to the Performing arts center, the event center. Without showing your papers. Please. You could not, um, work in a lot of places. The the gyms energy fired people who had been great employees for 20 years for not showing proof of the Covid shot or masking. You couldn't go to the Y, you couldn't go to restaurants. My own father was escorted out of the grocery store. My 82 year old father, this little man, um, who had a heart condition and wouldn't wear a mask for his, you know, obvious reasons, was escorted out of the grocery store by this six foot three man who said, we don't care about your exemptions. So people just completely lost their minds here in some areas in Idaho, in other areas, it was fine. They didn't go so overboard. Um, but I just felt that if there was any time to pass a law that extended to every person to ensure that every person is able to exercise the most basic and fundamental of human rights, the right to direct their own medical choices, then it's now. And so I took something that had already passed in Idaho, which was the Coronavirus Stop Act, and I rewrote it to extend to all medical interventions. Interventions and then pursued it. And I mean, I it's incredible that it happened.

**[00:11:55] Del Bigtree**

When you say medical interventions, what's included in that? How do we understand what that term means in this bill.

**[00:12:03] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

Yeah. So it's extremely broad, which was one of the criticisms by the people who were opposing it. But it is any device, any test or diagnostic, any medication, any pill, any injection, any type of medical intervention, a mask, a vaccine, a chip, you know, these things are coming. Anything that is put into or on your body, or you're forced to use in order to live a normal life is prohibited. So it's it is really sweeping. I mean, this is landmark legislation.

**[00:12:35] Del Bigtree**

It's fantastic. Do you think I mean, when we look at Covid, of course we talk about the negative part of that. We also all tend to talk about how much it woke people up. Do you feel like that was instrumental in being able to pass a bill like this? Do you think you would have been able to pull this off prior to Covid?

**[00:12:53] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

No. Absolutely not. I don't think we could have. Um, if you look back, I've been participating, going and presenting at the legislature and testifying for more than 15 years in the state of Idaho. And I think that there was a there's always been an appreciation for the importance of providing exemptions. So, as you mentioned, Idaho does have the very, very best medical exemption or rather, exemption to vaccines for school kids in the nation. You literally can oppose for any reason you want. You just write on a piece of paper. My child is exempt for religious or other reasons, signed Lesley J. Manoukian. And you submit that? That's good. So it already has that. But I think that we really lost our we lost our way and we have to come back to this place of what really matters. And I feel like the conversation had been, um, diverted away from just protecting children to now forcing entry into society on this stuff, and it needed to be redressed. So, um, that was really the genesis beside it. And what happened during Covid was we'd been talking about this stuff for 5 or 10 years. Covid really helped the legislature understand that we weren't just talking about nonsense, right? That we had been prepping them for years about these issues. And once there were some children kidnaped. So there was a baby in northern Idaho that was kidnaped by the hospital and Child Protective Services when the parents declined a hepatitis B vaccine at birth.

**[00:14:20] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

And that kind of woke people up. But Covid really woke people up. Covid helped. You know, there have been over 12,000 reports to bears of people injured or killed by the shots in Idaho. So this is a small state with only 2 million people. Everybody knows somebody. And so what's happened is I think that the legislature now fully understands why we've been pushing on this for so long, and now they really get it in a different way than they ever did. It's like a visceral thing now. And so they are on our side. I mean, we we won in the House 47 to 23. I mean, that's a staggering vote. And in the Senate, it was in the low 20s to I think there's 35 people. There were a few absences, but it was probably 21 to 14, something like that. And I mean, this is because they get it. People saw up close firsthand that people can be injured or killed by these things. That government lied. And this is the silver lining of Covid, right? We are all benefiting from this because now these legislators see the truth, which is that we have to make these choices for ourselves and that no one else should be in that position.

**[00:15:24] Del Bigtree**

Part of this story and you and I, had an opportunity to meet up with some dynamic people in Washington, D.C., just the other day. But when you were telling the story and I think it's important for people to hear it. This was not an easy road, not from the beginning. And, not only pushing it through, but there's a moment where we all walked away thinking they lost it. The governor just vetoed. Even when you'd won the first time. Tell me a little bit about the journey of this bill, because your perseverance is amazing at a moment where everyone thought, oh, there you go. Same old, same old. You pulled through. But tell us, how did you, how did you launch it? What was the outcome? And then the journey that it took to get it all the way here?

**[00:16:10] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

Yeah. It was it was really, um, the biggest emotional roller coaster I've probably ever been on in my life. I, um, drafted the bill last summer. So in the summer of 2024, I think in July. And, um, the sponsor, Senator Dan Foreman, had told me, if you write the bill, I'd presented the idea to him in the summer. I said, I'll draft the bill and get it to you. And he said, if you like it or if he likes it, that he will sponsor it. And so I presented it to him. He thought it was terrific. He took it to the Legislative Services office in probably December of last year, and then he introduced it and got it printed in January of 2025. And then he invited me to come to Boise in February. And that was the footage that you showed. That was me actually presenting to the Idaho Senate State Affairs Committee. You know that that's a official proceeding of the Idaho Legislature. It was I who who presented the bill and then stood for questions afterwards. And I did the same thing in the House after it presented this, after it passed the Senate, I presented it to the House Health and Welfare Committee.

**[00:17:13] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

So basically what happened was the bill initially flew through the Senate, which was the highest hurdle for us, and then it flew through the House and then it waited. We heard nothing. There was no comment from the governor, not a word about a concern. There was no contact from him. In fact, he was not even around. I mean, I was hearing that he had not come in for a few days prior to, um, the the due date on this bill. Basically, it got to his desk on a Monday morning at 1130, and he has five days from that exact time to sign it. So that was Saturday, March 29th at 1130. He had to sign it or veto it or do nothing. And if he did nothing, that it automatically, automatically became law. And what happened was like an hour before, hour and a half before the bill was to take effect, he vetoed it and he did something. Yeah. I mean, so I mean, I went.

**[00:18:06] Del Bigtree**

From just that moment. Yeah. What was that moment like? I mean, after all of that work.

**[00:18:11] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

After all that work. I mean, literally, I lived three hours from Boise. I was back and forth, back and forth for the votes, for the presentations, going and spending the night over there. You know, we had people writing in and calling in. I mean, it was like really, um, intense couple of months to get this through. And, um, and all week long, we were hearing that the smartest people are saying that he's going to sign the bill. Everybody thought he was going to sign the bill. We didn't think he could possibly not sign it, because the political winds have changed so much in Idaho that the people want freedom, they want to be protected, and they don't want the egregious intrusions that happen during 2020 to 2025 to ever happen again. So we were really optimistic. So you can imagine I'm like sitting there visiting my son in Chicago who's in college, and I get a phone call from Senator Forman saying, well, I just got a call from the governor's office or from the governor, and he's vetoing our bill. And I was like, shocked because Forman had kept reassuring me he really thought that we were going to get it signed. And we had already had the mask mandate ban signed by the governor. We had already had the governor sign a bill that removed the power to do all things from the health districts and the state of Idaho. So we were pretty much on a roll here. And I thought, okay, this is good.

**[00:19:29] Del Bigtree**

Yeah.

**[00:19:30] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

I was stunned. I was stunned, and I, I mean, I was so crestfallen, you can't even imagine it. But then we communicated over the weekend. I flew home to Idaho and he said, you know, listen, we have a plan. The governor issued a statement along with his veto, saying that his concern was that the bill, this this bill did not address whether or not schools could send home sick children. Well, the bill didn't address that because it was totally unnecessary. There's already existing code which says that sick children may be sent home, and we hadn't touched that. So from my perspective, this was a false you know, this was a fabrication. This was not a legitimate concern because we'd already, um, because we hadn't, you know, said anything about it. And so I thought, well, let's just call his bluff, let's insert the proper language and we'll do that. And so that's what we communicated about it on Monday morning. I was providing the exact language that was necessary to insert in the bill. And what happened was Senator Foreman went and met with the governor's staff. And over the course of that day, by about 2:00, he printed a new bill. And this new bill was basically the same as my original bill, but it now excluded all daycares.

**[00:20:44] Del Bigtree**

Wow. So somehow the daycares got involved and. And so then what did you do then?

**[00:20:50] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

And Del it wasn't just like one, one word. There were six different definitions of daycares inserted into this bill. Legally, somebody wanted that in there, and I didn't understand it right away. But overnight everything came together and I realized what was going on. So Senator Foreman had assured me that he would not proceed without and change any language without approving it, you know, running it by me.

**[00:21:14] Del Bigtree**

Yeah.

**[00:21:15] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

Um, he also had assured me that if I didn't like it, he would not proceed. Well, he took that bill, and he presented it in committee against my wishes.

**[00:21:25] Del Bigtree**

Wow.

**[00:21:26] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

I told him I thought the bill was evil, that I would not allow children to be sacrificed literally to be ransomed in order to purchase the freedom of adults. I could not stand by that. That I thought it was evil. And he did it anyway. So I was outraged. I'm truly outraged and couldn't believe what was happening. And he told me, oh, it's still a good bill. He finally called me that night late at night and said, it's still a good bill. And I said, no, it's not. It's awful. It's not a good bill. It's literally auctioning off our children. And I can't be part of that. But the people on the house side started texting me and saying, this isn't over. And, um, the next morning we were in communication and Representative Biswanger, who was the sponsor in the house. He said, don't worry, I'm talking with leadership in the House. We're going to bring our own bill. So they brought a new bill.

**[00:22:14] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

So Senator Forman introduced this bill, SB 1210, and then the House brought their own bill, HB 472 and four. 72 was identical to my original bill, but it inserted the language that the governor claimed to be his concern, which is that this legislation does not contravene the existing language that allows schools to send home sick kids. So we basically called it called his bluff. Yeah. And then what happened was it sailed through the house on Wednesday. They basically expedited it. This is the last week of the session, mind you. So this is crazy. I've never been involved with this kind of horse trading or this experience. And I mean, it was every 15 minutes we're being told this is going to happen. It's not going to happen. It goes it passes through the committee. Then, you know, Wednesday night we hear the Senate won't hear the bill. So I'm just like, we're just I mean, we I didn't sleep for two weeks essentially. I mean, it was just all night long we were texting. We're calling, we're strategizing. And then on Thursday, we heard that Senator Fuhrman was going to take he had gone to totally silent on all on me and our our whole team. We heard that he was going to remove the daycare exclusion. But I didn't trust him at this point because, you know, he had completely broken his word with me and so I didn't know what to do. So then we worked all day long to try and kill 1210 and to support for 72. And we were bombarding the, you know, the both chambers and the governor with these calls and these comments.



**[00:23:42] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

And then that night I am driving home from Boise through the mountains with no coverage calls falling. And I get a call, I get several calls from the speaker of the House and other leadership, and they're telling me, you know, what do you want to do? Do you want us to kill? It will kill the bill if you want us to kill the bill. And I was like, what do I do here? Do we kill the bill? Because I won't be part of sacrificing innocent children and their well-being? Or do we move forward? And I was I mean, talk about a crisis. It was just so heavy. And, um, we ended up being on the phone until very, very late that night, and we all said we would pray on it and sleep on it. And in the morning I woke up and I said, okay, I'm going to testify in favor of the bill, but I'm going to say that there are these major problems with it because it had imported language from the Idaho rules, which is what's promulgated by administrative agencies, the health department saying that, um, healthy, unvaccinated children could be excluded in the event of a disease outbreak, but there was no definition for disease or outbreak. And so I'm like, could kids who are healthy be excluded because someone else has pinkeye, because someone else has strep throat, because someone else has a cough or a cold? What is this going to do? And so I was prepared to do that.

**[00:24:57] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

And I texted, um, representative Josh Tanner, who's the assistant majority leader, and I said, can I have two minutes of your time? And he called and he said, this isn't over. This isn't over. We can still change this. He's like, you tell me what you want in the bill. And so I told him what my concerns were, and he's like, we'll insert language about that. So he inserted in the bill. And the thing is, it had already gone through the Senate. So now the House has the power to actually alter the bill and then force concurrence by the Senate. So it was like unbelievable, brilliant strategy by the leadership in the House. And so they inserted language that said that no healthy unvaccinated person can be excluded on the basis of their vaccination status. This is truly revolutionary. No state in the country has anything like that. And then we also inserted that no rules or regulations or code could be promulgated by any state agency which contradicted this bill, which means that even if the government issues an emergency, no state agency can actually implement it. So it's pretty much bulletproof. Del. So anyway, anyway, we waited all day long. I didn't know what would happen. The Senate finally said, okay, we concur. Senator Foreman agreed. And then we waited, literally pins and needles to find out whether or not the governor would sign it. And he did. I couldn't believe it. He did. I still I'm still pinching myself. I still can't believe that he actually signed.

**[00:26:22] Del Bigtree**

Sounds like the bill is even stronger in the end, after having gone through being vetoed than it was to begin with. Which, I keep saying, this isn't obviously a religious show, but there are times where I really believe there's a there's a greater, mind at work and guiding us. And sometimes those difficulties is why I really wanted you to tell that story, because so often we give up, and really, it's, it's those moments where the the miracle happens and the divine happens. And this is what you posted. He signed the Idaho Medical Freedom Act is law. "Idaho is the freest state. Congrats and gratitude to my health freedom sisters at Liberty for ever." Um. Amazing story.

**[00:27:09] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

Del. So I just have to say something on that. Every every morning and every night I would get into bed and I would put my hands on my heart, and I would pray and meditate and I would I would be so emotional and so fearful, and I would just be told, trust, trust, trust. You know, you need to trust. Trust me. And I was just like, okay. And I mean, that was so hard to do. But all I can say is, whatever you believe in, um, there is some higher power, and all I can say is all the glory to the highest, because this was, um, there is no doubt that there was a divine hand in my mind in this entire episode. And I really, truly believe it's something I've tried to teach my son since he was very young. That you believe in what you do. You put one step in front of the other and you just believe. And if you are, I think, pursuing good. If you are doing good, all that is good. Who can argue that we should not have the right to choose our medical treatment? Like, how can you possibly argue against that? That is clearly good. Then then the you know, God, whatever you want to call it, will follow. And so I really, truly believe that this was because the mission was about what is right and what is just and what is good, and that our purpose was pure. And so everything orchestrated. We got something better than I could have ever imagined. I mean, to think that children can't be excluded anymore, and people can't be excluded anymore because they're not vaccinated. It's unreal.

**[00:28:45] Del Bigtree**

Fantastic. Leslie, thank you for sharing the story. So amazing. After the show, we're going to get together on off the record, I want to talk about, first of all, what really motivates you. But how do we then make this happen in the other states around the country where you think, the most sort of pliable or movable states might be? We're going to get into that, but I want to thank you for taking the time today. We'll be talking to you on off the Record just after the show. Congratulations once again, and please give my best to everyone out there that made it happen. If we if we want to follow you on social media or the work that you're doing, where do we go?

**[00:29:20] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

Um, so yes. So I founded a nonprofit called Health Freedom Defense Fund. It's [healthfreedomdefense.org](https://healthfreedomdefense.org) Um, I just want to add this to, you know, this is one of those things there where it was just about belief. Um, when we filed the the lawsuit to challenge the federal travel mask mandate in 2021, everyone said it couldn't be done except me. And I was just like to my attorneys know this is wrong. The federal agencies cannot promulgate rules that that impinge our health freedoms. They can't do that. These are reserved to the states. This is wrong. And so we filed suit. And I just never, never doubted. I just believed through the end that we would win and then we won. So anyway, health freedom defense.

**[00:30:01] Del Bigtree**

You have a law degree. Just out of curiosity, is that your background?

**[00:30:05] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

No, but I've had a, like, a no. I was financed finance Del before,

**[00:30:09] Del Bigtree**

I love that. I just want everyone to hear that. I want everyone to hear that. That's what passion does.

**[00:30:16] Leslie Manookian, President and Founder, Health Freedom Defense Fund**

Um, I worked at Goldman Sachs. I mean, my first career was in finance at Goldman Sachs, and then I was a portfolio manager running money and, um, living in London and living that kind of, you know, very high powered life for a long time until my son was born. And then I just wanted to protect him. And I learned about the whole vaccine debate. And so then I made the greater good. And then it's just been this sort of 25 year process to, um, to try and do good, basically. So. So yeah, you can follow me on Twitter. You can get to all of our social media through health freedom, and you can follow me personally. It's just Leslie Manookian on, um, all the major, um, social media platforms and, um, yeah. Thank you so much for having me on. It's great to be with you.

**[00:30:59] Del Bigtree**

Thank you. Leslie, thank you for joining us. And once again, congratulations. Alright. Well, we have a big show coming up. I'm going to be speaking with Ian Somerhalder about their new film, Common Ground. It's the follow up to Kiss the Ground. He's incredibly excited to discuss the launch April 22nd. We'll be talking all about that. We're going to get deep in just a moment here into the announcements by Robert F Kennedy Jr. That happened yesterday. So it's that time. Time for the Jaxen report. Well that was pretty inspiring. I have to say. It's amazing what people can do when they just really put their heart and mind to it. What an incredible story. And what a victory in Idaho.

**[00:31:50] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Oh, Hugh, we've been following that story since since February. So great job Leslie. Del, it's there's times where you and I go live, and the events that are happening are so massive that it's hard to think that what we're reporting is not going to look back at history and think this is a massive turning point or something has shifted that will forever change. And this is one of those moments in my opinion. And what am I talking about? Well, just last week we had Robert F Kennedy Jr, amongst other people in Trump's cabinet. There was a cabinet meeting and he said this. Take a listen.

**[00:32:25] Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary of HHS, Former Presidential Candidate, Environmental Attorney**

The autism rates have gone from our most recent numbers we think are going to be about 1 in 31 from 1 in 20. So they're going up again from 1 in 10,000 when I was a kid. And we are going at your direction. We are going to know by September. We've launched a massive testing and research effort that's going to involve hundreds of scientists from around the world. By September, we will know what has caused the autism epidemic and we will be able to eliminate those exposures.

**[00:33:02] Donald Trump, 45th & 47th U.S. President**

There will be no bigger news conference and that. So that's that's it. If you can come up with that answer where you stop taking something, you stop eating something. Or maybe it's a shot, but something's causing it. It can't be. It can't be from 10,000 to. Can you imagine that, Marco? That's a big. That's a big number. Thank you very much. You're doing great. Thank you. Bobby.

**[00:33:28] Del Bigtree**

Yeah.

**[00:33:28] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

So following those statements, the autism epidemic in America has now become one of the largest stories in the nation. And Robert F Kennedy Jr used his first press conference as secretary of Health and Human Services to say this. Take a look.



**[00:33:42] Female Speaker**

Thank you for joining us today for our first press conference since Robert F Kennedy Jr was confirmed as the 26th Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services. I am honored to introduce to you Secretary Robert F Kennedy, Jr.

**[00:34:04] Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary of HHS, Former Presidential Candidate, Environmental Attorney**

The ASD prevalence rate in eight year olds is now one in 31. Shocking. There's an extreme risk for boys overall. The risk for boys of getting an autism diagnosis in this country is now one in 20. And it's high in California, which has the best data collection. So it probably also reflects the national trend. 1 in 12 point five boys. One of the things that I think that we need to move away from today is this ideology that the autism prevalence increases, the relentless increases are simply artifacts of better diagnoses, better recognition or changing diagnostic criteria. If you look at table three of the ADM report, it's clear that the rates are real, that they are increasing in the last ten years year, which is the the beginning with the first one year by year, there is a steady, relentless increase because this, uh, this epidemic denial has become a feature in the in the mainstream media, and it's based on an industry canard. And obviously there are people who don't want us to look at environmental exposures. This is a preventable disease. We know it's an environmental exposure. It has to be genes do not cause epidemics. They can provide a vulnerability. You need an environmental toxin. And we're going to look at all the potential culprits. We're going to look at mold. We're going to look at food additives. We're going to look at pesticides. We're going to look at air and water and medicines. So you know we're going to look. We're going to look at ultrasound and we're going to look at all of them agnostically. We're going to find the potential exposures that increase during that time period. And then we're going to and we're going to we're going to see if there is a link to this to this injury.

**[00:36:18] Del Bigtree**

That was I you know, Jefferey I was lucky enough to be sitting in the room. I was out there for a different meeting the day before on Tuesday, and we found out suddenly that they were going to be having this announcement. And, I had mixed emotions. One just incredible hope that we're finally, finally going to, and by the way, I've been since I made VAXXED, I, it just feels like every day is like, we are getting to the end of this journey, which is I, after making VAXXED wanted everyone in the world to know that this issue was happening with autism. He's being very general right now, which I think is the smart play and saying, let's look at I know he means it. We're going to look at every environmental toxin that's out there. But let's be clear, we don't go from 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 31 because of better diagnosis or, because, somehow we've expanded the criteria. In fact. And I'm so tired of that argument, by the way, of, what is it? Just in the last few years, we've gone from one in 36 to 1 in 31. What did doctors suddenly they're better diagnosing than they were a few years ago. Better than five years ago? Ten years. At what point can someone tell me at one point, we have figured out how to diagnose this completely because this is getting ridiculous. They've been making that argument now for about 15 years. But, as I sat there and just thought, how many HHS secretaries have stood at this podium right here and gaslit this country and gaslit the world over this issue, ignoring the fact, I mean, just the simple statement, this is an epidemic. Um. It seems so simple and yet was so dramatic. And just. We are clearly turning a corner. We are in a new world now. Um, just an incredible moment.

**[00:38:08] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Yeah. And besides making this his center point and stepping out with his first press conference here. I mean, like you said, he officially ended the epidemic denial talking point and refocused the nation on the autism epidemic that's been growing rapidly over the last several decades. But what he also did, too, was he shifted the, the culprit out of of genetics. So blame really blaming the victim. It's your fault. You have bad genetics and, you know, kind of go away. We'll figure it out. And he put it towards external factors. And as he said they're external factors are industry. What industry. Well he's being he's being coy about it. Or maybe the science isn't done and he's saying the science will start to be done. But he's looking at every industry now. And that shifts the national focus to to that external industry. And just understand too, this doesn't stop at our borders. The world is watching what we're doing, what he's doing, and they will follow suit wherever this goes. And so let's look at he put he posted this on X right after that conference says "the autism epidemic has now reached a scale unprecedented in human history because it affects the young. The risks and costs of this crisis are a thousand times more threatening to our country than Covid 19. Autism is preventable, and it is unforgivable that we have not yet identified the underlying cause. We should have had these answers 20 years ago." So the CDC put out their mMWR, that's their in-house science journal, and this was what he's talking about. This is the data backing up what his press conference was all about. This is the "prevalence and early identification of autism spectrum disorder."

**[00:39:38] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

They look at 16 sites monitoring sites in 2022. Now he mentioned his press conference. We're going to have real time reporting on this instead of two year lag. And he made a great point. He said, do we wait two years to address a measles epidemic or a Covid epidemic? He said this is the same thing. So we go into this report and it says this. This is the results of this report. 16 sites "among children aged eight years in 2022. Autism spectrum disorder prevalence was 32.2 per 1000 children. That's one inch 31 across 16 sites range from 9.7 in Texas Laredo to 53.1 in California. ASD was 3.4 times as prevalent among boys than girls." And so I mean, we're talking about a 384% increase since the year 2000. And you go into this report and look at the chart. He's talking about California, which has some of the best data collection in the nation. And these are just all of the sites. So these are the prevalence in all the sites per 100,000. And you see there California way above 50. That is a major, major issue there. That brings it to about 12.5 per 100,000. So this is this is raw data. And he's approaching this really in a red alert. You know, four alarm. Fire away. As it should have been approached for the last several decades. And what did we see from the media? Well, immediately after Trump's cabinet meeting, where he said the autism rate is now one inch 31. We had Peter Marks, the individual of a lot of controversy as of late. He went on Face the Nation and he had this to say. Take a listen.

**[00:41:13] Del Bigtree**

Okay.

**[00:41:14] Peter Marks, MD. Former Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA**

The totality of all these interactions and sorting out this incredible complexity to try to do that in six months time, my calculation of how many months it is till September, I don't you can help do that. But six months time.

**[00:41:28] Female News Correspondent**

Unless you're buying research from somebody else who's already in the midst of it.

**[00:41:31] Peter Marks, MD. Former Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA**

Yes.

**[00:41:32] Female News Correspondent**

I mean, is that credible way to come to a conclusion there?

**[00:41:36] Peter Marks, MD. Former Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA**

He may be aware of a bunch of research that I'm not aware of, and that's why I'm going to be respectful here. You know something? I just I love to hear it presented, but the piece, though, that I will put to you that I will not accept as a cause of autism is the MMR vaccine, or for that matter, any of the other vaccines we use because we've studied them in so many millions of children.

**[00:42:01] Del Bigtree**

The irony of his admonishing the concept of Robert Kennedy Jr being able to get an answer to this age old question, as it's been growing in six months, from the guy that rushed a vaccine that was killing animals and animal trials onto the market. You know, without long term safety testing inside of about six months is absolutely incredible. One far more dangerous adventure than the other. Getting answers in six months. Different than forcing everyone in the world to take a product that is clearly never going to have the time to go through a proper safety trial. And now we are seeing the repercussions of that. And I think he will never be forgotten. For one of the greatest medical tragedies that was ever foisted upon humanity. We're going to be a part of making that happen as we continue to report on it. But I just it's incredible to he gets under my I think I hope everyone's feeling that this guy has a way of getting under my skin.

**[00:42:58] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Well, the former FDA employee now unemployed is I mean, he's basically slinging mud.

**[00:43:03] Del Bigtree**

I'm sure there's a pharma job seconds away. So let's let's not celebrate the poor guy's future trajectory.

**[00:43:10] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Working towards Scott Gottlieb's board of directors position and maybe a pundit on media. So, you know, he's basically slinging mud there saying, I don't know how he's going to get this done. That seems like too big of a job and you know it. Kennedy said nothing about vaccines in his press conference. So the fact that Marx goes, well, I know it's not vaccines, so don't look there. Well, it's interesting because his agency, the FDA, they were responsible for licensing all of the vaccines. And as we can show here, we've shown this table a lot of times. This is an ICAN table. It's made the rounds. His agency, the FDA, is responsible for licensing these vaccines for routine injection into children. They were never licensed by the FDA based on a long term, placebo controlled trial that is most of the vaccines on the CDC's recommended schedule. So it's interesting.

**[00:43:55] Del Bigtree**

And let me let me just say about that chart while he's admonishing on the six months, virtually every one of those vaccines had no placebo and established safety in a trial that was under six months long. So he's able to decide that a bacteria or virus wrapped in aluminum and formaldehyde and aborted fetal cell lines that were capable of doing that six months and injecting into every human by force if they want to go to school. But God forbid, you try to answer a question in six months anyway.

**[00:44:25] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Exactly. And don't even look at that hepatitis B, because that's just a matter of days. We're going to look at the safety profile.

**[00:44:31] Del Bigtree**

Right.

**[00:44:31] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

I mean, amazing things can happen when you rush it. So that's interesting coming from Mark's because he was also the person when Kennedy reached out and said, hey, I want to start looking at this, this VAERS database. We're going to start looking into this vaccine information. These are the headlines that were being made. Um, "CBER head Peter Marks says he blocked RFK Jr from vaccine safety database before leaving FDA." Well, isn't that something? So now let's go. Let's move on from the FDA, because it's really the CDC who commissions the studies. Um, 1986 act has put HHS in charge of making these vaccines safer. The CDC commissions the studies to do that. Looks at them. So we asked ICAN, our our legal team, ask the CDC to say, hey, you know what, this autism conversation, why don't you go ahead? Can you produce all of this data, this robust millions and millions of children you've studied, as Marks said, that show all the studies that show that vaccines do not cause autism for these vaccines in just the first six months of life, because, you know, people are pretty vulnerable. Children are pretty vulnerable, then. Well, these are the headlines that were made at that time.

**[00:45:33] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

They couldn't do it. "Cdc fails to produce the evidence to support its claim that vaccines given during the first six months of life don't cause autism," another one, "CDC can't support its claim" this was on its websites that vaccines, plural, do not cause autism. Well, what are those vaccines given the first six months of life? Well, there's three doses of DTaP, hep B, influenza type B, we have the pneumococcal and the ipol. That's the polio vaccine. And so CDC really when they came back to us with is they couldn't provide evidence of a single study involving those vaccines. And so that is where we're at right now that that's that robust safety science we keep hearing about. They can't even produce it. And so let's go to well at least they should have done some vaccinated versus unvaccinated studies. Are they looking at the kids now that this now it's in the fourth phase of testing. It's rolled out into the public. That's us. Are they looking at the kids that didn't get the shots and see who's healthier? Who's not healthier? Let's go to Colleen Boyle. She was the CDC's developmental disabilities director, kind of an important person when it comes to autism. She was being questioned during a hearing by Bill Posey years ago. Let's see what she had to say about that.

**[00:46:42] Del Bigtree**

Okay.

**[00:46:43] Bill Posey, (R) Former U.S. Representative for Florida**

So clearly, definitely, unequivocally you have studied vaccinated versus unvaccinated.

**[00:46:52] Colleen Boyle, PhD, Director National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the CDC**

We have not studied vaccinated versus unvaccinated.

**[00:46:56] Bill Posey, (R) Former U.S. Representative for Florida**

Actually never mind. Just stop there. That was the meaning of my question. You wasted two minutes of my time.

**[00:47:00] Del Bigtree**

I know that hearing well, a lot of it appears in the documentary Vaxxed that I made, but, um. Yeah. And yeah, it's the heart of the entire conversation. So you've never done a comparative study yet? You promise us the vaccinated are healthier? Yeah.

**[00:47:14] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

And that was in 2012 when there was an alarming rise in the autism rates. The entire hearing was about the alarming rise in autism rates. So people have been banging the drum on this for a long time. But, you know, people out there, maybe Peter Marks or whoever else is watching may say, well, that was 2012. There's a lot of science that's been happening since 2012, and we have the answers. Well, it's interesting because our lawyer, Aaron Siri, deposed one of the world's top experts in vaccine safety science. Kathryn Edwards, she literally has her name. She's an author on the book vaccines Plotkin's vaccines, and asked her about the vaccines given in the first six months of life. And do they cause autism? Here's what she had to say.

**[00:47:55] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

According to your profile, you have done most of the trials relied upon to license many of the vaccines correct on the market?

**[00:48:03] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Yes, sir.

**[00:48:04] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Okay, so you're highly experienced at conducting clinical trials, correct?

**[00:48:09] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

I'm highly experienced conducting clinical trials.

**[00:48:14] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

And you're familiar with many of the clinical trials that relied upon to license many of the vaccines currently on the market, correct?

**[00:48:21] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

I am.

**[00:48:22] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Okay. In your opinion, did the clinical trials relied upon to license the vaccines that you received, many of which are still on the market today? Were they designed to rule out that the vaccine causes autism?

**[00:48:49] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

No. You've badgered me into answering the question the way you want me to. But I think that, um, that that I. That's probably the answer.

**[00:48:59] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Is it? Is that your accurate and truthful testimony?

**[00:49:07] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Yes.

**[00:49:08] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Now, in the expert disclosures for this case, it asserts that, among other things, you will testify that, quote, "the issue of whether vaccines cause autism has been thoroughly researched and rejected." End quote. It's your testimony that MMR vaccine cannot cause autism?

**[00:49:25] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

That's correct.

**[00:49:26] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

It's your testimony The hep B vaccine cannot cause autism?

**[00:49:29] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

That's correct.

**[00:49:30] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

It's your testimony that ipol cannot cause autism.

**[00:49:33] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Yes.

**[00:49:34] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

It's your testimony that Hib vaccine cannot cause autism.

**[00:49:36] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Yes.

**[00:49:37] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Your testimony that varicella vaccine cannot cause autism.

**[00:49:40] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Yes.

**[00:49:41] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

It's your testimony that Pevnar vaccine cannot cause autism.

**[00:49:44] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Yes.

**[00:49:44] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

It's your testimony that DTaP vaccine cannot cause autism.

**[00:49:47] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Yes.

**[00:49:48] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

And do you have a study that supports that dtap doesn't cause autism?

**[00:49:53] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

I have I do not have a study that that DTaP causes autism. So I don't have either.

**[00:49:59] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Do you have any study one way or another of whether ipol causes autism?

**[00:50:08] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

I. No, I do not, sir.

**[00:50:10] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Do you have any study one way or another of whether Infanrix B causes autism?

**[00:50:16] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

I do not have any evidence that it causes autism, nor that it does not.

**[00:50:22] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

And what about, um, Hib titers? Vaccine? Any evidence, one way or another of whether it causes autism?

**[00:50:29] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

no.



**[00:50:31] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

And what about Prevnar vaccine? Any evidence one way or another?

**[00:50:34] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

No, sir. No, sir.

**[00:50:35] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

And how about varicella vaccine? Let me just finish. Are there any studies, one way or another, that support whether it does or doesn't cause autism?

**[00:50:43] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Part of. Of MMR. Um, but but not as varicella by itself. No, sir. No studies that say it does or no studies that say it doesn't.

**[00:50:53] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Right. Um, now, there have been studies that have found an association between hepatitis B vaccine and autism. Correct?

**[00:51:06] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Um, not studies that I feel are credible.

**[00:51:10] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Okay. Which study? Which study do you are you referring to when you say that?

**[00:51:15] Dr. Kathryn Edwards, Principal Investigator, Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project, Member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine**

Well, why don't you show me the study and then I'll see whether I agree with it.

**[00:51:21] Del Bigtree**

It's one of my favorite videos in the world. And I also want to point this out right now. I want to ask everyone in the audience, uh, have you ever watched a news show that can say that we funded the lawyer asking the questions in that deposition. That is only made possible by ICAN, which is the parent nonprofit for this educational program, The HighWire. So all of you that donate out there when you pay Fox does Fox go out and put lawyers in the room and get to the bottom of the answer. No they don't. Msnbc, CBS, nobody. This experiment that we've done in media, or if you want to call it activism, is like nothing else that's ever happened on Earth. And we have got that evidence and piles and piles. Our mountain, by the way, now at The HighWire, proving that these people are lying about their mountains of evidence is far bigger than their mountain or their hill or their molehill or their imagination.

**[00:52:18] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Yeah, we stand forever ready here to correct former correct former FDA employees when they try to pass misinformation as fact on the vaccine autism conversation. But it can get exhausting talking about studies that aren't there. So let's talk about some actual science and let's. And what am I talking about? Well, there's some actual science on this year's flu shot. Now, the flu season is still going on. This is a longer flu season than we've had in a very long time, which is an interesting conversation on its face. But this is Fox News. This is mainstream. Mainstream headlines being made here. "Flu vaccine linked to higher infections says early research." And this is again the Cleveland Clinic. We've reported a lot of the studies out of the Cleveland Clinic. And they did research on their employees, their their medical employees at that clinic who took the flu shot. And let's see what they had to say about this. They're talking about the "effectiveness of the influenza vaccine during this year's respiratory viral season." And they said "among 53,402 employees, 43,857, 82.1% had received the influenza vaccine. By the end of the study. Influenza occurred in 1079 or 2.02% during the study. The cumulative incidence of influenza was similar for the vaccinated and unvaccinated states early."

**[00:53:31] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

"But over the course of the study, the cumulative incidence of influenza increased more rapidly among the vaccinated than the unvaccinated." Well, that's not what you want. So let's go to the graph here. It shows what I'm talking about. And around there's both unvaccinated and vaccinated. And about 90 days out you see that blue line the vaccinated it starts to diverge. And that starts to have a runaway vaccination induced flu shot. I guess you'd call a flu virus. I guess you'd call it. So we go back to the study and it quotes this. It says "in an adjusted analysis they adjusted for age, sex, clinical, nursing, job, employment, location. The risk of influenza was significantly higher for the vaccinated compared to the unvaccinated state, yielding a calculated vaccine effectiveness of -26.9." That means you're 26.9% greater chance if you got the vaccine to get the flu virus respiratory virus. So what do they conclude? Well, not shockingly, "the study found that influenza vaccination of working age adults was associated with a higher risk of influenza during this year's 20 2425 season." That suggested the vaccine has not been effective in preventing influenza this season.

**[00:54:39] Del Bigtree**

I mean, it just keeps getting better and better. I want to take a moment to just point out a couple of things. First of all, we are talking about the Cleveland Clinic that admits in this study they basically, I'm sure, coerced over 80% of their staff to get this thing. So these are fans of this product, right? These are not people setting out to ruin the reputation of the flu shot. They're going to look terrible to all their staff that we made. You get a product that is 27% more likely to make you sick than if you just didn't get it at all. So there's the bias. There is the opposite of what you imagine, and they're making this point. I also want to say this. I want to just take this moment right now to maybe save a life out there. I want you to take this document. And how do you take this document? You're going to have this document in your inbox if you just simply sign up to our email list, all you do is if you're on the page at thehighwire.com or ICAN watching this, just scroll down and right where it says brave Bold News. Just go ahead and just type your email in there. We will keep it secret since we don't sell it out to anybody, but it gives you all the evidence of everything.

**[00:55:45] Del Bigtree**

This is our Highwire protocol, complete transparency, everything in your inbox. But here's what I want you to do this week. I want you to take this document. I want to take this document of the Cleveland Clinic, and I want you to go to your doctor, make an appointment, whatever doctor you have, and say, hey, doc, should I get this year's flu shot? Don't tell them what's going on or don't tell her. Just. Should I get this year's flu shot? And if they say yes, please fire them immediately. Fire them and hand them this and say, here's why you're fired. I have been trusting that you are doing your research. Clearly you're not. You are clueless and you're putting me and my family in danger and walk out the door. I want to see this happen across the country this week. I want to see doctors being fired left and right. If you can prove that they don't know this study, which, by the way, did have headlines all across the country, if they're still pushing a product that makes you more likely to get sick, then there is only one thing that you should do with that doctor is fire them and walk out the door. I'm so tired of letting idiots make decisions about our health and our future, and our children.

**[00:56:55] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

And Del, having a vaccine with low effectiveness. A flu vaccine with low effectiveness is not a major breaking story because they they guess the strain they get together, they guess the strain that may be prominent strain during the flu season before the flu season starts. And then they they basically ramp up production for this flu vaccine. So we've seen headlines like this out of Canada before. "Flu vaccine effectiveness study signals no protection this year in Canada." So it's been it's been as bad as 0%. But the fact that we're getting now negative efficacy 26.9%. It's very interesting. Now we have kind of a natural study here year ago to the day or to the to the month. The same Cleveland Clinic employees were studied looking at their Covid boosters. And I want to remind people, we covered this, this study at that time, it's the "effectiveness of the 2023 2024 formulation of the coronavirus disease 2019." So it goes in and it says this. They looked at all these employees at the Cleveland Clinic that got this vaccine. They said "consistent with similar findings in many prior studies, a higher number of prior vaccine doses was associated with a higher risk of Covid 19. The exact reason for this finding is not clear. It's possible that may be related to the fact that vaccine induced immunity is weaker than less durable than natural immunity." So here you have this phenomenon during Covid that all of a sudden, more boosters, more vaccines for Covid. Covid 19 means you're getting it more. You have negative efficacy. And now all of a sudden these same employees or some of these same employees are having negative efficacy in the flu shot. What's going on here? There's a lot of studies showing that the the Covid shot kind of tinkers with your immune system and not in a good way. So that's that's a space that needs to be studied. And you have this natural experiment here really at the happening in this incubator. That's the clinic.

**[00:58:39] Del Bigtree**

People probably wondering like what I'm giggling at, but I'm sitting here watching it thinking, first of all, I'm really glad Cleveland Clinic has been doing these studies, but at what point are the doctors working in the Cleveland Clinic going to realize, wait a minute, am I a lab rat or am I a doctor? What am I doing here? You keep poisoning me with these products that are only making me sicker, and you're getting great studies out of it. But we're all getting sicker. I mean, at what point do you say all right already? I don't think I'm going to get any of the recommended vaccines by the Cleveland Clinic any longer.

**[00:59:10] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

It's the ones that were let go because they didn't get the Covid shot. Maybe the lucky ones here.

**[00:59:14] Del Bigtree**

Right.

**[00:59:15] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Well, I want to piggyback off some of what Leslie Manookian was doing, a lot of advocacy at the state level. That's happening all over the place. But the hotbed has shifted now from Idaho to really Florida. Florida is the hotbed, and it's not for vaccines at this point or medical freedom. In a way, it's for fluoridation and water fluoridation and the right not to really have a medicine in your water supply. And we look at this, this county map of, of Florida. And you can see most of the counties have voted out the fluoride in their water, except some of those in the southeastern portion, the bottom right corner. You see one of the big ones there, Miami Dade. It's the most populous county in Florida, the seventh most populous county in the United States. They have voted out their commissioners there have voted out an 8 to 2 vote to get Florida out of the water. This was a big story in the run up over the last week. But something happened. And when they voted that out, you saw headlines like this. The media was really trying to damage control this. "At least 900,000 Floridians have lost already lost access to fluoride in their water." I mean, another way to put that would be 900,000 Floridians now have a chance to avoid lowering their children's IQ. Lowering elderly hip fractures. Arthritis. Bone cancers.

**[01:00:28] Del Bigtree**

Yeah. Bias

**[01:00:28] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Yeah, exactly. There's two ways to play this. But now we go to the New York Times. So the county and its people voted for this. And we have a veto. This is Daniella Levine Cava. She is the mayor of Miami-Dade. New York Times reporting new York Times "Miami Dade mayor vetoes plan to remove fluoride from drinking water" goes into the story that says "the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, a nonpartisan body, approved the measure to ban fluoride on April 1st in an 8 to 2 vote, with three commissioners commissioners absent. Nine votes are needed to override the mayor's veto. If all 13 are present, and it is unclear whether there will be enough support. The next scheduled board meeting is on May 6th." So what was interesting that happened that kind of broke a lot of people's hearts that were really pushing for this. I really wanted this out of the water. But we have all of a sudden this this phenomenon, this decentralized quick reaction force came out of nowhere when this when word of this veto came down and you saw Surgeon General Joe Ladapo, he went to X and he posted this. He said, "I'll never understand how anyone feels entitled to add drugs to the water that other people drink. Give her office as the mayor a call or visit and just say no."

**[01:01:35] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Then we have Governor Ron DeSantis. He amplified that message and he said this. "Say no to forced medication." Then all at the same time, kind of uncoordinated. Everyone just just went to this. We have the a county commissioner in Miami-Dade, Roberto Gonzalez. He went even a step further. He said, "by vetoing this bipartisan solution, our mayor acting like a typical politician, relying on Partizan pollsters and tired talking points while putting people's health at risk, especially pregnant women, infants, children and other vulnerable groups." So from the grassroots, from the people all the way to the leaders of the state, several leaders of the state are all coming together really to support this. We've never seen anything like this before. And what's interesting about this obviously that may that May 6th overturn of that veto is important. But the wave is sweeping so fast across Florida and the nation that there's already a bill. This is SB 700 in Florida that's making this headline "Florida moves closer to statewide fluoride band with strong Senate support." So this bill will it prohibits addition of non-water quality additives such as fluoride. Doesn't say fluoride in the bill, but it prohibits those additives to be put in water. So that's kind of like a backdoor. This thing is moving really fast through the state.

**[01:02:47] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

And if we go all the way to the national level from from Miami-Dade County, all the way to national level, the EPA has kind of been hamstrung. So under the Biden administration, last July, the EPA put out this press release, this announcement, and it was talking about the results of its fourth review of drinking water standards. And it basically said this. If you go into it, it says "EPA has decided that the that the fluoride MPD is not a candidate for revision at this time. In addition, the NP is National Toxicology Program has not made a final decision about the report's developmental neurotoxicity. Systemic Review Conclusions is not formally released a final report." So it's basically saying, because this national toxicity program didn't really release its final report yet, we're not going to really tinker with the standards, because that's kind of a big deal. Well, literally a month after they did that, it's almost like they raced to put that press release out because they knew that report was coming a month after they did that. These are the headlines that were made. This is August of 2024. People will remember we covered this. "Us agency links high fluoride exposure to lower IQ in kids." That was the bombshell report that kicked all of this off really. And now the EPA has has a right to do this.

**[01:03:54] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

They must do this. This is Lee Zeldin, the head of the EPA. They put out a press release and they said this "EPA will expeditiously review new science on fluoride in drinking water." So they are moving on this. It says "the National Toxicology Program released a report in August of 2024, concluding with moderate confidence that fluoride exposure above 1.5mg/l is associated with lower IQ in children. The report also concluded that more research is needed to better understand if there are health risks associated with exposure to lower fluoride," so they go on to say that they're committed to do this, they're going to do it fast, and they're going to change the EPA's fluoride drinking water standard. If they find that this science is really working now. This is that the that the national level we have Arkansas, Georgia, Nebraska, Kentucky, Tennessee, they have all filed bills to either ban or end the mandates to require fluoride get it out of their public water supply. So this conversation is, curtains are almost drawn on this. And it's really interesting to report on this. It's really it's cool to be here to report on this because I think in the next six months we're going to see just massive change to this conversation.

**[01:04:58] Del Bigtree**

And it really is amazing all happening at the same time. Curiously, at the same moment that Robert Kennedy Jr is at HHS. I'm not saying, I mean, does he get all the credit? I don't know. I think maybe more than anything, our consciousness has changed around these topics. And that's what I've said so many times. It's not necessarily Robert Kennedy Jr as a man, but he represents that the attention of the public was so great that probably the least likely to ever hold the most powerful health position in the world is there because we now care, we're paying attention, and, we're making a difference as a, as a society. So Jefferey amazing reporting at such an exciting time for this show, for The HighWire. I sit here thinking, do people want to watch a show that mostly focuses on medicine and health and science when they could tune into wars? But, I realized as I watched this, we've been reporting on a war on humanity, a war on our bodies, a war on our biome, a war on our children. And finally, the tides are turning in this war. And it's very, very exciting.

**[01:06:04] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Absolutely. I think these months we're sitting in right now are some of the the major moves in history. People want to watch. Watch this. You're watching history develop over these, this, this month into the next months. They're going to be massive, massive stories like you've never seen before.

**[01:06:17] Del Bigtree**

Yeah. Amazing. Jefferey I look forward to seeing what you come up with next week. See you then.

**[01:06:22] Jefferey Jaxen, Investigative Reporter**

Alright. Thank you.

**[01:06:23] Del Bigtree**

Alright, well, obviously, you don't get a bill in the mail from The HighWire, or ICAN. We decided to do an experiment. I mean, you can see, technically, this show is as technical as anyone you'll watch on television are reporting unlike that on television, is never, has not been really incorrect on all the major things that we've covered. Uh, we have total transparency that we hand to you. No other network does that. But the biggest difference is, as I say, at the top of every show, we don't have a sponsor. Our sponsor is you. So if you're watching this show and you're not one of our sponsors, I'd love it if you would make this the day that you step up and do it. We're asking for \$25 a month for 2025. But whatever, whatever you can give, you vote with your dollars. And if this show matters to you, and if the work that we're doing matters to you, if putting Aaron Siri into court cases so that we get the world's leading experts to admit under oath that they've been lying and gaslighting the world, if you want, if you if that has value to you, please get involved. You know, reciprocate that experience because there's so much more that we can do. And to talk about, just because Robert Kennedy Jr is in there, you know, one of the things I was just in a meeting, recently and there was huge complaints by a lot of people that their FOIA requests that have come in over the years are just filled with redactions. And where do we go? How do we get these redactions removed? And I'll be honest with you, in all seriousness, even though I was part of running Robert Kennedy Jr's campaign, I'm not on a direct we have to go through all and in some ways more hoops right now because there's such a sensitivity to look like there's no favoritism.

**[01:08:05] Del Bigtree**

So we're not picking up the call and calling Marty Makary or calling Robert Kennedy Jr. But what we are doing is picking up the phone and calling Aaron Siri and saying, you know, those redactions. And I said to everybody, this meeting, go ahead and call me. I'll get Aaron to send in FOIA requests, and we'll bring the full weight of the law to get that fixed. And that's how we're reaching out to the government. Even though they appear to be friendly, it's still the work is necessary. But we have a new initiative. That's super important. And I wanted, Aaron Siri to come in and talk about it. Aaron, good to see you. First of all, by the way, I mean, every time I play the Kathryn Edwards deposition or the Stanley Plotkin deposition, these are just incredible triumphs in law. And and I just want to ask you, how do you. I mean, I've never really talked about this. How do you prepare? I mean, you studied law, not medicine and science with Stanley Plotkin. Nine hours you went toe to toe with one of the the leading authority on vaccinations in the world. How do you prepare for something like that? I mean, you've got to be able to drill down on and get into the weeds because the problem is what's in the weeds here, right? How do you do that?

**[01:09:24] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Well, a lot of reading and a lot of studying. I mean, look, there's there's, uh, there is, to a degree, an objective facts out there, right? Even if those quote unquote facts and those medical textbooks aren't right, they at least are the current state of the science. And if you know what it is, right. If you actually read the clinical trial reports, if you actually read the immunology books, infectious disease book, vaccinology textbooks, and once you understand all of that, you and you ask questions when they give you an answer that you know isn't true or you know is misleading, you can push back on it, but you just have to know that stuff, and it takes a little time, but. It's, um. Luckily, I will say I'm very curious about all of that, so I enjoy. I enjoy learning it.

**[01:10:10] Del Bigtree**

When you go in, do you have a sense of, I mean, you do research on the lies they've told publicly or on video just so that, you know, I mean, do you know what questions you're going to ask and catch them on? I mean, I know at one point, uh, Stanley Plotkin says, you know, you ask him questions like, alright, what what is my answer? Because obviously you've called me out like ten times. He just he just, like, throws in the towel. He's like, alright, I'm not even going to try to make up a lie because you've caught me multiple times.

**[01:10:38] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Yeah, well, I typically don't. I mean, um, in those type of contexts, I don't I typically actually almost never ask a question where I don't have the proof with regards to what the answer could or should be.

**[01:10:53] Del Bigtree**

Okay.

**[01:10:53] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

So if I'm asking, uh, did you take money from this pharmaceutical company? Uh, you know, either they admit it, which isn't good, or they lie about it, which is worse. And so, you know, typically it takes it takes an hour or two to get into that cadence where they realize, hey, you know what? Uh, when I lie, I get caught. Maybe I should stop doing that. And that's what gets them to start having to tell the truth.

**[01:11:18] Del Bigtree**

Right.



**[01:11:18] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

And so, you know, you see it over the course of the depositions, you know, with Kathryn Edwards. At some point, she's like, well, why don't you just show me the document and I'll, you know, and then I can agree with it because she's like, I'll just admit to whatever he's got proof for, but I won't admit to anything else. Meaning she isn't looking to tell you the truth. She's only going to tell you and admit what you can prove. Right. And so you have to show a witness that you can't lie to me. Um, and that does take a lot of prep work. Like before these depositions, uh, we pull every single study that they've ever authored. So with Plotkin was about 800 studies. We pulled every single one. Um, and we looked at all of them. I looked at all of them for the most part. And Edwards too, we looked at all the chapters of textbooks that they've written, or maybe they've been editors of us, and we look at all the videos that are publicly out there, anything that they've done. Um, you know, at one point in Kathryn Edwards deposition, we happened. She posted a she did interviews from her office so we could see the wall in her office and what she, uh, put on her wall. She's got this quote. And so in the middle of deposition, I just randomly said the quote, and you could see her face like that's in the wall of my office, like, as if I snuck into her office. No, I just was on a video, you know.

**[01:12:37] Del Bigtree**

How does he know that? Oh, man.

**[01:12:39] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Preparation is is critical. Anybody who just, you know, lawyers, if you just walk into a deposition, um, without preparing and, you know, you're not going to get very far, uh, it probably takes, you know, depending on what deposition it could take 100, 200 hours of prep to properly do one of these depositions.

**[01:13:01] Del Bigtree**

It's really amazing. Aaron, you're the best at it. We are so lucky to have you all these years doing this incredible work for ICAN um, and, and able to to sort of come on and talk about The HighWire. What what are we up to right now? You said you wanted to announce something. It's like a breaking news. What is the breaking news today?

**[01:13:20] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Yeah, and it's important. So I, um, I thought it made sense to make sure this reaches as many people as possible. Under the federal regulations, the secretary of HHS happens to be a Robert F Kennedy Jr at the moment. And I'll just read the statute. It says "they may review a determination under this section," meaning that's the CICIP that's the program that decides whether or not somebody injured by a Covid vaccine can earn compensation "at any time on the Secretary's own motion or on application." What that means is that Mr. Kennedy, as a secretary of HHS, can review prior denials of compensation for those injured by Covid 19 vaccines. So there have been about 4000 denials issued by the Cicip. That's the counter injury compensation program with regards to people injured by the Covid 19 vaccine. And ICAN, as you know, generously launching an initiative for us, our firm, to gather those denials along with a form we're going to be making available very, very soon. Um, and we're going to be submitting them to the Secretary's office to review those denials of compensation. Um, and this time do so fairly. Um, which we trust is now, uh, a potential. Um, and so obviously we want to reach all 4000 of those individuals. And the reason that's critical is this. While we currently do have two lawsuits pending, also supported by ICAN, to strike down the immunity under the Prep act for Covid 19 vaccines with regards to injuries caused by those products.

**[01:14:55] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

We are also simultaneously seeking to push to have that repealed by the Secretary as well. And then and this is being done by ICAN legislate so not, not not ICAN. Uh we are pushing a bill so we're, we're coming at it three different ways to get rid of the immunity. But if any of those three different ways prevail, that probably will only impact in people in injured going forward. It will probably it depends. Obviously we're going to try to make it retroactive, but it could only there's a good chance it will only apply going forward. So anybody who has been injured by Covid 19 vaccine might only be left with the recourse of having filed in that, uh, I certainly won't call it a court. And I don't even think you can validly call it a program. It's a hole in the wall, uh, that you shove a piece of paper through but the whole. But the hope is that, um, they're reviewing the secretary's office. These folks will get a fair shot. And maybe the only opportunity to get compensation. And some of these folks that you've had them on your show. I mean, you know, they're trying to support their families. They're, you know, the person injured might be the only person bringing an income in, and now they can't work. Yeah. And they can't pay their medical bills. They're facing bankruptcy. The inability to support the family, inability to care for themselves or their family. They're devastating stories.

**[01:16:19] Del Bigtree**

And of course, you know, we covered a huge story last week with the Peter Marks, secret videos that you worked with Brianne Dressen to bring forward. We're going to be releasing those in early May, and you and I are going to do a press conference with Brianne on that, but it's a perfect example. This person that was lying to the world, saying there was no signals of injury, was having meetings where we now know he was getting plenty of signals, thousands of people being represented and just looking the other way. Things like Maddie DeGaray. He knows for a fact that Pfizer said what she had was a stomach ache. When we see her, she's in a wheelchair with a feeding tube. Hardly, you know, a stomach ache. And it didn't affect him at all. Did it change his language? Didn't change his energy, didn't even change how he treated Maddie DeGaray. So all of these things are starting to come together and create this very important picture, as you said. So let me get this straight. We're pushing to end the protections of the Covid vaccine and strike those down. We're looking right now in this moment to get compensation, or at least a reevaluation of the 4000 people that were turned down.

**[01:17:28] Del Bigtree**

We know why they were turned down the same way. Peter Marks was turning down the people that were talking to him right there on the zoom call with evidence, wheelchairs unable to walk and saying, I just don't see a signal here. And then, of course, all of this is leading to, I think, what's going to be a grand finale and act three like none we've ever seen. As these lawsuits and this information and the studies by Robert Kennedy Jr. I mean, all of these things. Aaron, you've been at some part, whether directly involved, planted the seeds of or actually, overseeing, it's just a critical, critical moment right now. And, you remind me how big your staff is and how many people work on this because I want people to recognize this isn't, we are this is going to cost money. We need help here. I want people to help us get this done. I want to be able to fund you to do this. But how many people are actually working on all these initiatives right now?

**[01:18:24] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Yeah. I can't do what I do without the incredible, uh, group of attorneys and other professionals at my firm that work on ICAN matters. You know, on any given month, there's at least 40 people at this firm, uh, that work on ICAN related matters of one form or another, sometimes more. Now, the good part about it, we've talked about it in the past is that because we, uh, we we. I guess you could call it a repeat player, right? We've got, uh, we don't just do one foia litigation. We've got a hundred of them. So we're very adept at that. And we have an institutional knowledge within the firm with regards to these products. So we don't have to learn things from scratch. Right. And so we can handle an incredible volume of lawsuits, petitions, requests. Um, and so forth around, um, medical freedom, around assuring individual and civil rights with regards to these products, as well as exposing truths with with regards to these products to help secure individual and civil rights. Um, but by and so, uh, you know, we're very fortunate to have ICAN support that. I'll add one thing to it, which is that I think the most important time to to push is when you have the advantage. And, um, right now with the change in leadership over at HHS, if we want things, we, the public want things accomplished within their within the within the HHS, within various agencies. We can't just sit back and hope it happens. In fact, oftentimes, um, government officials need some petition.

**[01:19:58] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

They need a request. They need a demand to react to in order to effectuate the change. Even if they want to do it of their own initiative, they might be hamstrung to do so without a petition. You know, the FDA, for example, it typically acts in response to petitions. So Pfizer wanted to license a new vaccine. It doesn't sit at home and go, hey, you know what? We want a new vaccine license. And just we'll just wait for the FDA to do it. We're not going to petition them. We're not going to send them data. Of course not. If Pfizer wants a vaccine licensed, they have to send a formal petition to the FDA, support it, and so forth. If we want to ask for FDA action with regards to a particular vaccine, we have to do the same thing. We can't just sit back and hope the FDA is going to act. We can't sit back and hope these agencies are going to go do these things, even if the leadership is now more inclined to do so as as pro-vaccine, as FDA commissioners have been in the past. They don't go and make their own vaccines. They don't they don't, you know, they don't go, do they don't go start these processes on their own. They need a petition, often a request to react to, just like here, these 4000 individuals were denied compensation. Um, I would, you know, most likely if we want to get a reaction from the HHS in potentially reevaluating, we got to resubmit the petitions, the denials, with more with support and so forth.

**[01:21:18] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Um, to be able to to get that relief for those individuals. Um, so it really is it's a critical time. It's probably the the best time ever and the most important time to push as hard as we can. I would say that, um, there's more work right now to get to, to, to, to do at the federal level and, uh, than ever in the history of what ICAN has supported. It is also the time where we probably and hopefully can get the most accomplished. So let's press our advantage to the extent that we have one second. It's also the time where we have the most amount of work to do in one of the states. Blue probably. Maybe without. I don't want to make this legal, but it's one of the colors. It's blue or red. I'll let people guess which one it is. Okay, one of them is going even more so, so to speak in the other direction in reaction to what they see going on at the federal level. And they are, and we have to work now twice as hard to make sure that they don't infringe on individual and civil rights in the states and not just do that. But obviously we're trying to free the five. We're trying to pull back and recapture rights in an environment that's even more hostile to doing so.

**[01:22:33] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

So all of that and, um, you know, all of that is going on all at once. I'll say one last thing. I've talked for a while and that's that. I will say they're not the prior administration, and these agencies are not going to make it easy.

**[01:22:47] Del Bigtree**

Yeah,

**[01:22:47] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

They're not making it easy. And I'll give you one example. The Vaccine Safety Datalink we've talked about that for forever right on this show. We have foiaed with regards to the VSD and what this is. For those who don't know, it's a database of 10 million Americans okay. The CDC basically has paid we the taxpayers paid to gather the health codes and vaccine information from 10 million Americans, from various HMOs, from Kaiser to Harvard, Pilgrim to Henry Ford. And they aggregated it so you can do vaccine safety studies. We know there were thousands of completely unvaccinated kids in that database, and all we wanted to do all these years is compare the unvaccinated kids health outcomes across all everything, you know, neurological issues, everything to vaccinated kids one or more vaccines, it would have been simple to do it. We've been demanding it forever. Even the Institute of Medicine said it's possible. And now we have found out. I have just found out that, in fact, you can't get the VSD data anymore because what our the CDC has done is it essentially took all that data and returned it to each of the HMOs to make it unavailable so that they thwart the ability for.

**[01:24:09] Del Bigtree**

wow

**[01:24:09] Aaron Siri, ESQ. ICAN Lead Counsel**

Our Current administration to actually conduct a study in the VSD that is, uh, if that wasn't a government actors doing it, it would be absolutely criminal.

**[01:24:23] Del Bigtree**

And it just shows you how afraid they are to do. Why would you be afraid to allow that study to be done? Why is Peter Marks admitting he's hiding vaccine data from Robert Kennedy Junior? What are they so afraid of? Right. Why don't you just let him do the science and say why you think that that science is inaccurate when you stop someone from doing science? I think you start showing your hand. We know what we're up against. Aaron, as you said this, this isn't a cakewalk right now. It's the most important time. You know, my I'm going to out my son a little bit. I hope he doesn't mind, but my son is 16. He's a sophomore. He just made state in tennis for the first time. I was really proud of him. And in the second round he did fantastic. The first set he won six two. He was looking amazing. I saw even other coaches coming in and saying, wow, look at this kid. And then as he came out for the second set, I saw him relax a little bit. You ever seen your kid do this? He just kind of came out, started coasting, let this kid back in. You know, that kid ended up winning that set and then ultimately winning the tie break and Ever was out of state.

**[01:25:25] Del Bigtree**

And as I said, Ever, man, you got to learn to close. You got to recognize you had him on the ropes. You had the power. You had the energy, you had the focus. You let him back in. You let your opponent back into the game. Aaron, I don't want to let our opponent back into this game. We are ahead right now. We need to close this and close it hard and close it now. So I want to thank you for this work. It's very important. Um, so for all of you out there right now, um, you want to be a part of history, you want to say I actually invested in the guys that made the difference, that brought the lawsuits that really did bring this home. We've got, you know, we've got Djokovic here in Aaron Siri playing tennis for us right now. I want him at his best. I want to keep saying go, move forward, and I want to point something else out that might have just gone right past you. Almost every other nonprofit will see a lawsuit going and jump in and say, oh, well, we'll fund that, which is great. But a lot of times that's the first time that lawyer has ever touched a vaccine issue or touched a medical freedom issue, and they're dabbling into it and they go and they fund that.

**[01:26:24] Del Bigtree**

We took a totally different approach. Aaron and I have been together from the very beginning, since 2017, spelunking into caves of legal, issues and using FOIA in ways that had never been done before. Learning, failing. Succeeding. Winning and but constantly training the 40 people now every case they learn more. It doesn't just disappear because that was the only time they were doing the case. This law firm is designed to do this work now, and we are funding this work right now. We've won against NIH, CDC, FDA, HHS and a whole host. We brought back the religious exemption in Mississippi. We were critical because of our lawsuits. The religious exemption has been returned to West Virginia. We won back the California University school systems religious exemption. We want the elementary schools and we want to make California look like Idaho. We need your help right now. So please, right now, if you can, \$25 for 2025. I know I'm hitting it hard, but you don't know how much we're trying to do. And the honest truth is, is we're thin right now and we shouldn't be. Don't think this is over. Help us put the pedal to the metal, take no prisoners and bring this entire issue home, not just for this year.

**[01:27:35] Del Bigtree**

Not just for this generation. For all the generations to come. We'll make it easy. You can do it by mail. You can send in stock. International transfer. Crypto vehicles. Gift cards. Points. Legacy giving. And if you're one of those people out there that's, you know, been very fortunate in life. You don't have to limit it to \$25. I think this is the most important nonprofit in the world, what we're doing. We were instrumental in getting Robert Kennedy Junior into HHS. Help us help him bring this home. Thank you for everyone that has made this possible so far today. One of the major issues outside of the vaccine issue and having gone through Covid is food and our Earth. We've had I've had brilliant interviews with Zach Bush talking about we have killed the Earth, we've killed the lungs of the Earth with our farming. Uh, there's some people that have made some great documentaries. The first one was Kiss the Ground. Now Common Ground and Ian Somerhalder, famous actor you all know who he is is dedicated executive producing this film. It's about to just explode on April 22nd. If you want to know more about it, that is what we're going to be talking about. Check this out.

**[01:28:43] Female News Correspondent**

Ian, did you ever think you'd be talking about the importance of soil?

**[01:28:48] Female Speaker**

What I'm about to tell you is a matter of life and death. If the soil dies, we die.

**[01:29:02] Male Speaker**

The facts have been proven. Roundup does cause cancer.

**[01:29:06] Male Speaker**

If you burrow deeply enough, there is a pipeline of money from the pesticide industry into those universities. They're getting the kind of science that money can buy.

**[01:29:21] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**  
Hey. What's up? It's Ian Somerhalder.

**[01:29:24] Female News Correspondent**

Yes. You know him? He's an actor, a businessman, and of course, an executive producer as well. In 2020, you have the documentary Kiss the Ground. It's incredible. And now you have a sequel to That Common Ground. Talk about that.

**[01:29:35] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**  
It exposes the money pipeline from the agrochemical companies into the universities in this country. And what you learn is these agrochemical companies have been secretly microfinancing all of the agricultural university curriculum in this country for 40 years.

**[01:29:51] Female News Correspondent**

Yes.

**[01:29:53] Male Speaker**

Nature is the mother of us all. And if mama ain't happy. We're fucked.

**[01:29:57] Male Speaker**

one, two, three, four.

**[01:30:04] Female Speaker**

But there's a way to save our precious soils. It's called regeneration.

**[01:30:11] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

Regenerative agriculture is just the use of planned grazing methods. And literally using living, growing plants at scale to sequester enormous amounts of carbon dioxide and store it safely back in the ground where it belongs.

**[01:30:25] Male Speaker**

We have added over 96 tonnes of carbon per acre into our soil. Can we mitigate climate change? Absolutely.

**[01:30:35] Male Speaker**

So I'm going to fight like hell to save your future, my children.

**[01:30:41] Male Speaker**

Because I love you.

**[01:30:42] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

You don't want to be the parents that look at your kids and say I'm sorry. Right. You want to be the parents to look at your kids and say, we did something, and it worked.

**[01:30:56] Del Bigtree**

Well, I think this is one of the most important issues of our time, and it's my honor and pleasure to be joined right now by actor and executive producer of both Kiss the Ground and now Common Ground Ian Somerhalder joins me. Ian, thank you for taking the time today to join us. And thank you for these incredible films that you're engaging the public with.

**[01:31:20] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

Thank you for that, man. I the way that that trailer was just cut interfaced with some of the stuff from from our previous, uh, some of the other interviews. I mean, like, look at me, man. I'm, like, misty eyed and I'm jamming out listening to the songs. I remember putting all that in there and how the basslines hit and what it looks like. This is the most important story of our time. This has nothing to do with us. Whatever our previous lives were as actors or celebrities or whatever it's called. This is the way of the future, and this is how we basically solve an enormous amount of our problems. And it's like, yes, here we go.

**[01:32:00] Del Bigtree**

What, uh, what first got you involved in the regenerative farming space? Why, of all the things that grabbed your attention, as you're saying, you believe this is the most important issue. Why? What was it that that really got you into it?

**[01:32:17] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

I had a very amazing split sort of duality growing up. I had a Mississippi farmer redneck of a mom with an amazing lineage of half Irish, half Choctaw native. So I got a lot of that indigenous nature, um, information and then a lot of the farming, uh, nature from the Irish side as well. My dad's half French, half English, uh, Cajun. They're called coonass, you know. But I grew up on the bayous of southeast Louisiana. So my father teaching me of the delicate nature of the ecosystem as far as the wetlands. My mother and my mother's family teaching me about how farms, the way they feed one another, all of those systems in a regenerative way. You know, these are multi, multi, multi generations going back to the 1700s. So those two elements really informed who I would become. Josh Tickell and I actually went to the same high school in Mandeville Louisiana. Mandeville High School. Uh and it wasn't until 2007 that I got hooked back up with Josh and Rebecca. Actually, they were shooting fuel and the whole world just sort of opened up. Um, and through a lot of my work, I ended up meeting Allan Savory. You know, the godfather of of soil, uh, at a symposium I was speaking at in La Jolla. He had just won the Buckminster Fuller Award. And I met the man. I met the man. The guy who understands soil more than anyone. And he'd been saying it since 1973. Anyway, long and short of it is, he invites me out to Victoria Falls to his his place out there.



**[01:33:55] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

And so our a camera operator, this guy Jeff Schatz from Vampire Diaries and I, who's now he's a big producer now. But we literally went on on this pilgrimage to Zimbabwe. And I saw for the first time what large scale regenerative agriculture actually creates. It's how you regenerate a desert planet. And I saw it and then it started to click the tens, hundreds of billions of dollars that can be saved and generated by just using regenerative AG, because you're cutting out all those expensive inputs with the high use of synthetics. And it all clicked. And now here we are. You know, that was dude. That was April of 2011. We were shooting that that was 14 years ago. So so this has been a part of our journey for a long time. And it took us seven years to make Kiss the Ground, seven years to make that film. So this team, Josh and Rebecca have put together these stories with this team and this now common ground coming out. And we're so grateful to Jeff Bezos and this entire team at Amazon. This is going to change the whole landscape of our agricultural economy. It's actually going to balance our climate, build \$100 billion a year, robust agricultural economy in the US, right? Start re-injecting that money back into middle America. It's the reindustrialisation of middle America. This is the future. And I'm like, I can't believe it's here. Like, I'm I'm emotional about it because I can't believe we're actually here. We're five days out and I'm taught this, you know.

**[01:35:38] Del Bigtree**

Fantastic. Yeah. World premiere happening on Amazon Prime. April 22nd. It's a huge deal. What? You know, which is Earth Day, to remind everybody. One of the things that I really like about this conversation is something that, Doctor Zach Bush brought to my attention years ago, uh, which, you know, the climate change is such a trigger point from two different perspectives, it feels like half this country believes it's happening, or that at least that is caused by, you know, mankind. The other half, you know, saying that they don't believe in it. But what Zack pointed out is that this is a space where you want to talk about common ground. This is where we really make common ground because both sides want healthier food. Both sides recognize that things like glyphosate and these herbicides and pesticides are cannot be healthy for us. But what we need to both recognize is that if we really, whether we believe it or not, or it's man made or it's not the CO2 that is absorbed by the earth, if we could bring our farms back to life, the dirt, the soil that we've killed, which is so clear with all this industrial farming, if that soil came back to life, not only does it make our vegetables more vibrant, with more vitamins and things, you know, nutrients in them, but it also is, as Zach put it, the lungs of the Earth. You open up the lungs of the Earth so that we don't have to destroy necessarily our economy. We don't have to shut down every industry we have, which is where this argument is coming. Let's open up the lungs of the earth and get back to living life, you know? And it just seems like it's a great meeting place where we can all come together. Um, so, yeah.

**[01:37:24] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

Couldn't be more true, dude. That's the thing. We're so divided that the soil is our only common ground.

**[01:37:29] Del Bigtree**

Yeah.

**[01:37:31] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

Uh, you mentioned this, which. You're exactly right. We don't have to bludgeon one another and form so much of a regulatory stronghold on our industries. Just. This is the big thing. Obviously, we will decarbonize our economies eventually. But until, you know, seven, you know, triple sevens start running on, you know, deer urine. We need oil. It's just the way it is, right. China is still going to burn coal. India is still going to burn coal. You're going to tell the developing nations. Well, I mean, obviously China is not a developing nation, but you can't tell the developing world to not do what we did. So let's solve for that. Stop bludgeoning each other and trying to stop our industries. Let's eat all that carbon. And man, I'll tell you, when you look at these models and you look at the carbon models and you look at the new climate models based on what we're doing, it's unbelievable. We can just eat all that carbon. And you know what's amazing? Because you're right. When you mention the word climate change, whether you believe it or not, it actually doesn't matter because it's still going to it's going to affect us all right. But if you mention climate change to people, it doesn't matter what side of the political aisle they're on. People do this because it's such an enormous thought. So rather than this, we want people to do this. And when you show them what large scale regenerative agriculture can do by just like Zac was saying, the the lungs of the, you know, of the Earth just got to think about it.

**[01:39:06] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

We are the same biological process, right? The soil and its ability to sequester enormous amounts of carbon and feed us nutrient dense food. Right. We've lost 60% of our topsoil and 60% of our nutrients since the end of World War two. That's not a that's not, uh, it's no accident, right? Yeah. But that soil just like us, that soils ability to sequester and grow food is only as good or capable as the health of soil is directly related to the microbiome of that soil. So the health of the microbiome of soil, that soil health is dependent on that as the same biological process as human beings, the health of a human being is directly related to the health of the gut microbiome. We are the same. So when we when we kill those microbial and we kill those fungal networks within the soil by tilling, we kill its ability to to share nutrients and sequester carbon, Right when we stopped doing that, we start fixing that nitrogen in, like Doctor George Carver said taught us so many years ago. Everything changes. Think about this. \$400 an acre up to savings, right? You got guys like Rick Clark in western Indiana and Gabe Brown. These guys, these guys are making a ton of money.

**[01:40:29] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

Why? Because their farms are profitable. Why? Because they're saving upwards of \$400 an acre. Like, look, man, I make whiskey, right? A lot of whiskey. I make vitamins, too, but just grain acre. Say, there's 200 million grain acres, right? You multiply \$400 times 200 million. It's \$80 billion a year that we are of farmers money that we are sending to to foreign countries, because that's where the agrochemical companies are owned. Why are we doing that? So when we stop doing that, all that money starts going back into the system, right? And as our our soil health goes up, our human health is going to go up. But what happens when human health goes up? Our human Our health care costs come down precipitously. So now you're like, here we go, man. Farmers are making more money. They're paying more taxes. School districts are going to get better. Water districts are going to get better. After school programs are going to be implemented. I mean, this is a really big, positive cascade. And man, it is actually happening whether you want it to or not, whether you believe in climate change or not, it doesn't matter. Let's give our economy and our health the boost that it needs. This is the surefire way to do it. Everyone wins, except the agrochemical companies are going to have to find other revenue models, and that's just what's going to happen. You know.

**[01:41:46] Del Bigtree**

There's I was just actually speaking at an event, ironically down in Louisiana, um, about regenerative farming about a week ago, and, um.

**[01:41:54] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

Oh, nice.

**[01:41:55] Del Bigtree**

Yeah. Farmer was a farmer, was in the audience, and we were doing a Q&A, and she was very upset. She said, I don't know how to do this. You're not. I mean, I hear what you're saying. I hear how great you think it is. But our livelihood, our family, has done this for generations. We are using these chemicals. And now you're saying we're bad people? Now you. Now. Now you're turning people against us. I feel like you're trying to turn the population against us. Um, and very just a really heartfelt person who obviously is, the farmers are just the heart of this country. It's it's where we come from. You come from, you know, you grew up around that. What do you say to those farmers? There is real panic all the way to the point where in Georgia right now, the governor is about to sign a liability protection for Monsanto. So you can't sue them if glyphosate, ends up giving you cancer or things like that. And they're using the argument we're protecting the farmers. So this this potential war on farmers, which is what this could be turned into. How do you want to address that? What do you say to that?

**[01:43:06] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

So it's a really solid question and it's pretty ubiquitous. You're right. Change is scary. Change is hard. But the real big question is, is what is the price and cost of not changing? And that's like where you start to think, okay, listen harder. Times are going to come down the road by not changing. And so the best thing that we can do is utilize the government as well to actually stop subsidizing these ridiculous warm weather crops and grains and stuff that we don't actually need to because we're building putting them into a food system that's toxic. We're subsidizing the unhealth of our nation. When the office of the president or the legislators allow that farm bill to change a bit, and we start actually helping farmers transition, right. Because, listen, farmers only want to talk to farmers. They only trust farmers. And by the way, I don't blame them. I don't blame them at all. But right now, if you look at how much a farmer gets of \$1, it's about \$0.08.

**[01:44:15] Del Bigtree**

Wow.

**[01:44:16] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**  
That's not fair. Yeah. \$0.08. So everything else goes to the agrochemical companies, the seed patents, the seeds, all of that stuff. When you take away the reason Rick Clark saves \$2 million a year in western Indiana is he doesn't use pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, fertilizer. And the big one is the amount of diesel that you need to distribute all of those synthetics around your farm. When you start taking that away, all of a sudden it's cash in your pocket. And so I'm not trying to sound crass or, you know, incendiary, but look, money talks, BS walks, the money talks. When you tell a farmer you can make more money and be healthier. You can't take that away from them once they hear that, they're not going back. And so we're happy to announce actually next week people say, well, how far have you gotten? Right. So we started this in 2020. Uh, we launched Kiss the Ground, which again, remember, the film took us seven years to make. There was about 5 million acres of organic in the US, which took about a half century to create. We're announcing next week we are at 50 million acres now of regenerative AG. Not all of it's transitioned. It's in different layers of transition. Uh, there's several tiers, but the farmers are doing it, the commitments are there, and it's already in the works. This is a sea change, and it's about halfway through to our goal of 100 million acres, because basically it's about 10% of the US farmed land.

**[01:46:00] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**  
Right. So that means so right now that's going to mean one in all 1 in 10 calories you're eating came from regenerative farm. That means one out of ten farmers that are at the gas stations, the truck stops, the feed bins, you know, the feed stores, um, the agrochemical, uh, offices. 1 in 10 is talking about this now, right? That's a big difference. Yeah. And so the amount of money that we can inject back into the system is so incredible. And you got to think about, you know, we spent \$447 billion in diabetes, which is effectively a made up disease because of a toxic food system. Right. We're subsidizing corn. We're making all these sweeteners. It's destroying our country, right? Well, listen, once we take that out, all of a sudden human health goes up, mental health goes up, people have more money. Those farmers are going to the local, you know, Chevy dealership and Ford dealership. They're buying new trucks. They're taking their wives and their kids to dinner once a week, not once a month. You can't take that away from people for this amount of time. You know, what we learned was on the film. I mean, I'm not trying to laugh, but it's just what we do is we uncover on film how the agrochemical companies have been secretly micro-financing the land, not just the land grant universities, but the university agricultural curriculum in this country for 40 years.

**[01:47:26] Del Bigtree**  
Right.

**[01:47:27] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**  
Come on.

**[01:47:28] Del Bigtree**  
It's what pharma did to us, to the medical system, right? All the education just turned them into drug pushers versus actually being healers. I know I've just got a little bit of time with you. I mean, and I want to just get to the film now itself. What is what is Common Ground for those of us that saw Kiss the Ground? What why Common Ground? Why did why another film? What is the difference between the two films that we're about to see? Yeah.

**[01:47:56] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**  
Great question. So Kiss the Ground was like dipping our toe in the water. Hey! This exists. We can do this. I can't say that was the whole reason, but got about \$20 billion from the IRA from both sides of the aisle for solar generation. That's the power of Kiss the Ground. Touched a billion people. Common ground. Right. We're so divided. Soil is our only common ground. Common ground is the nuts and bolts about how it actually works and why regenerative. Why regenerative agriculture can actually solve so many of our global problems just starting here in the US, right? This is a love letter to our children, right? This is the story of how when we put our minds and our hearts to it, and we expose the money coming from the agrochemical companies financing all the university agricultural curriculum, we have conditioned our country to think this is how we're supposed to operate. So much so that we've got, you know, a company that makes the product that gets you sick. Then they also sell the only cure available in the world for that. That is a wonderful closed loop, uh, economy for them. And hey, kudos. You did it. You're crushing it. It's time for that to end.

**[01:49:12] Del Bigtree**  
I love that. Yeah. Definitely got to appreciate, you know, your opponent.

**[01:49:19] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**  
Oh for. Oh my gosh. I like I you know I want to give them a hug. They did so well.

**[01:49:25] Del Bigtree**  
Right.

**[01:49:26] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

It's just time to change. And this is the new future. And, uh, it's time, you know, the US Congress is. You can't do this anymore. You can't, uh, allow them to make, you know, pay for the best science money can buy, and then you legislate based on that science. Uh, and everybody makes money except for Main Street, right? Let's build America for Main Street from the ground up. Not from Wall Street. From the top down. That is the message. You know.

**[01:49:56] Del Bigtree**

Have you any issues? I mean, you're up against, obviously a mega corporate monolith in Monsanto and the agrochemical companies. I've done, a lot of the work I do. I've run into pharma. We've been censored, we've been sabotaged. You feel like there's always attack pushback. Do you get any of that in this? In this space? Do you get any tension from the agrichemical companies while you're trying to make this film and distribute it, or or do you feel like there's some some opening there, or are they open to this discussion?

**[01:50:32] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

They are now. And I think I get this question quite a bit. Listen, don't quote me on it, but I think there are around something like 14,000 class action lawsuits, lawsuits against Monsanto or Monsanto. This isn't something you can't find on Google, right? It's just never been aggregated before. Does that make sense? Yeah. So there's so much noise out there. All we're doing is aggregating this so that the population sees it, so that our legislators see it. And when it comes time for the farm bill to change, uh, the, the, the congressional bodies in those chambers, it could be changed. And it can also be changed in the office of the president. And so it's a pretty exciting time. I know there's so much doom and gloom, but I'm here to tell you the future is bright. Get your sunglasses. It really is, man. I when you see the film, you can't unsee the film. And it gives you so much hope. But it's not just hope, right? Because hope is fleeting. It's hope coupled with action. Because once you see that it's happening, you realize, all right, there are really some adults in the room and they're making some big decisions, and this is actually going to work.

**[01:51:50] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

And that's when you you start breathing again, right? And we are going to empower farmers to be some of the the literal rock stars of this nation. And you know, when you hear coastal elites talking about, you know, the flyover states and it's like, no, man, there are no flyover states. These are about to be these are the rock stars of the nation. And, uh, farming is about to become the coolest damn thing on in our country and in our society as it should be, because these are the people that feed us. These are also the people that are going to balance our climate, and it's going to spread. Right. There's a third movie, groundswell, and that's the international version or side of what regenerative regenerative agriculture is. It's big stuff, man, and I'm beyond grateful to be talking to you about this. Thank you for spending your time in life sharing these huge messages like you do with all of us, and inspiring the heck out of us to keep going. You know.

**[01:52:46] Del Bigtree**

So we have a really dedicated audience that loves to get involved. What websites should they be sharing with friends? Tell me about April 22nd. Just really quickly. What does the launch mean and what can we do to help spread the word?

**[01:52:59] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

Thanks. Thanks so much for that. April 22nd global launch party on Amazon Prime Video. Please tune in. Um, you can go to, uh, CommonGroundFilm.org and find out everything. It's going to be a lot of fun if for some reason you can't get on April 22nd, we're not going anywhere, see it as quickly as you. As soon as you can get onto the couch, get some popcorn. This is going to change the way you see the world, and it's going to give you hope that you never actually thought was possible. And I just get chills and I get super emotional thinking about it. Um, because this is actually happening, this is going to change the lives of those around us, by the way, and us. And this is a love letter to our children. I refuse, and I know everyone listening to this refuses to be the parent that looks at your kids and says, I'm sorry. We are going to be the generation of parents that looks at our kids and says, hey, we did something and it worked. It's still working. Go!

**[01:53:59] Del Bigtree**

Fantastic. Ian, I'm being told it's KissTheGroundMovie.com for everyone. Kiss the ground. Movie.com. Now we've got it nailed to the wall. I can feel your passion. I feel the same passion. I just interviewed Sabine Hazan a week or two ago, and she was talking about the gut biome and saying that she tested 1000 people and like, only 5% have the biome necessary, have bifida bacteria. These are all things that glyphosate, all the antibiotics. It's all over. Our food is destroying our biome. It's destroying our health. This is a this is really, in many ways, the only solution to that problem. We've got to get this stuff off of our food and get back to regenerative farming. So I'm so psyched liked that you got passionate about. This is people like you that are moving mountains for the rest of us. But we're going to help get this out there. I just want to thank you for taking the time to make these films and and also to join us today.

**[01:54:58] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

Thank you, brother, from the bottom of my heart, from from my team, our team. And Josh and Rebecca. We thank you. Enjoy the film. Let it change your life the way it's changed ours. And we're going to do this together. Thank you, thank you, thank you brother.

**[01:55:14] Del Bigtree**

Thank you. Have an awesome day. I'll see you soon.

**[01:55:17] Ian Somerhalder, Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer, Kiss the Ground & Common Ground**

You too. Heck yeah man.

**[01:55:19] Del Bigtree**

We obviously do the show. I'm flying all over the place. A lot of times, the way I'm communicating is through social media because I'm out. I was just yesterday right there in the room, as I said, with Robert Kennedy Jr at the HHS offices as he was bringing out the new numbers on autism. But if you want to really be in the moment, on top of all the things we're discovering, and there is breaking news all the time now. I want you checking out our social media. Here you go. You can look at it @Highwiretalk on X @highwireplus @JeffereyJaxen. ICAN is on X Instagram and Facebook @ICANdecide and Instagram we've got @the\_highwire\_official, @Highwireplus and @realJeffereyJaxen. And of course there's my own social media X and Instagram simply @DelBigtree. And we've actually been really focused on this social media space. We have brought a team. We're kicking it up a notch because we know so many of you are so busy that that's where you're really interacting. So we are putting out more content through our social media. Our numbers are exploding, thousands of people are joining every single week. And we want to just thank all of you that have found us through social media. And please share that social media with everyone you know,

**[01:56:38] Del Bigtree**

Hi Del Bigtree here. I was the former communications director for Robert Kennedy jr. And today I was at the HHS building where Robert Kennedy Jr just announced the autism prevalence data. The adm data announcing that autism is now one inch 31, up from one inch 36 just a few years ago and one inch 10,000 from the beginning that we've been recording. On this issue. What was shocking about today's statement is the fact that it was shocking at all that finally, for the first time, we're hearing from an HHS Secretary that there has to be an environmental toxic exposure that is causing this.

**[01:57:16] Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary of HHS, Former Presidential Candidate, Environmental Attorney**

This is a preventable disease. We know it's an environmental exposure. Genes do not cause epidemics. They can provide a vulnerability. You need an environmental toxin.

**[01:57:27] Del Bigtree**

You cannot see a rise that's explained by genetics. Yet all the funding from our regulatory agencies has been into the genetics around autism. Instead of what environmental toxin or group of toxins is causing this for all of the autistic parents out there, and for those parents that are going to have children are involved in that process right now. They want information. And finally, finally, we are going to get that information from the HHS secretary, Robert Kennedy Jr. As he stood there, I thought, how many scientists and individuals have stood at that podium and told us that it was genetic and that we shouldn't be worrying about this or refusing, as Robert Kennedy Jr put it, to call this an epidemic. An epidemic denial has been going on. And finally, that ends today. Autism is 1 in 31, he said, because it's more prevalent in boys. It's 1 in 20 and in California, where they're doing very deep research. Their boys are at 1 in 12 point five. This is an epidemic. This is why I've been involved in this topic for nearly eight years now, in an investigation to understand what is causing this and why is our government lying that it's even happening? That's the story today, not what's causing it. That study needs to be done, but why have we not been asking what's causing it? That begins today. That query is now going to be heard in this country and around the world, which means today is historic.



**[01:59:04] Del Bigtree**

So, look, we're in this position because we have the attention of the people. This is the nation of, for and by the people. That's why we're really pressing into the social media now, because we know you have friends that maybe can only watch a three minute video. I hope you'll start following us on all the different social media accounts and my own, so that you can use the ad as a way to start introducing these very important topics. I mean, how many of us have friends? I was just talking to some folks today that have friends and coworkers that got Covid vaccine, and they're dying of turbo cancers and the others that have gotten you. Will you please not get any more? Um. We all need to take this seriously. And any tool that we can use and any tool that we can provide from The HighWire for you to use to help protect your friends in the future from another stupid flu shot, or God knows, whatever is coming down the pike. So much work to do. We're on Apple TV now. You can watch on Roku so you can watch it in all the fidelity that we're actually shooting in on those platforms. So those are great places to watch all of this. I want to say right now, we just found out that Leslie Manookian's power has gone out in Idaho. So they have medical freedom. Sounds like they need to work a little bit on their electrical infrastructure, but we're going to catch up on the interview. So many of you want to hear what she has to say about the other states.

**[02:00:22] Del Bigtree**

How do we bring this to Texas and California and whatever state you might be working in? Again, all work that we want to do here, when we get that interview, we will be posting it to Off the Record. I just, it's a these are powerful moves for some. Not fast enough for some. This is, feels like the sort of last, stretch of a very long journey for me. I've been on this journey, I would say, for eight years since I first dove into this conversation with VAXXED. I've worked really hard to bring all the best information we can, do the best research, and of course, bring these lawsuits and work to get Robert Kennedy Jr in the position he's in this statement this week. If you don't have an autistic child, maybe you don't fully understand the power of what's being stated. But as he said up there, the mainstream media has been lying to everybody. It's been a part of this. It's owned it's a shill for the pharmaceutical industry. And when you look at you just look at how they're reporting, some of these agencies are looking at right now really did report I saw a great, set of interviews after his statement yesterday on Fox. But then there's other headlines like this that are just proving they're shills for the industry. The "first news conference, as HHS Secretary Kennedy says, autism is an epidemic in the U.S."

**[02:01:45] Del Bigtree**

and where do they go? "Advocates for people with autism have criticized this position as harmful and misleading. Existing research has explained autism as a multifactorial condition that is influenced heavily by genetics." I mean, thank you, CNN. We know who you work for. Can I say to you, please? This is a litmus test. Just like I told you earlier, taking the study from Cleveland Clinic. And just ask your doctor, do you recommend this year's flu shot? That way you've done the test. You've done the only study that you should have to do to know whether you respect them right now. See how they're following this Kennedy statement this week. If a news agency you're watching has a headline that looks like this other one that we have, "my son is not an epidemic. A final response to RFK Jr's dangerous autism rhetoric." Please cancel Variety. Please cancel your subscription to CNN. Please walk out of that doctor's office. You are voting with your doctor, with your dollars. Your dollars are going to lies. And it's not just lying to you may say, well, hey, I know the difference. Yeah, but they're funding them to lie to other people, other people that maybe don't have your knowledge. We really need to get active right now and start letting everyone know that this is insane. This is a statement, an argument, by the way, that I've had to deal with ever since I, released VAXXED. No one is saying autistic people are bad people. I use this example when I've had someone that's on the spectrum, usually going to college and has Asperger's, which is part of the the difficulty with the spectrum.

**[02:03:22] Del Bigtree**

What Robert Kennedy Jr is describing is the rise of, I think it's nearly 25 to 30% of the severely autistic Statistic that will never have a job, will never have a girlfriend, and in many cases will never speak or be toilet trained as as he said. And the families how this affects them, you know. Sure. If you are going to Yale and you're has Asperger's, it's not exactly the same story, but we have to be able to talk about this, and we have to be able to take care of those, especially those that are severely injured. But I put it this way, we discovered that there was blindness in Africa amongst kids. It was getting worse and studies were done. They realized they didn't have any vitamin A in their diet. It was a large, huge demographic studies. And then we started figuring out what can we put vitamin A in? Can we put it in salt? Can we put it in spices? I think ironically, they found MSG was the most widely used thing and they put vitamin A in it and suddenly they cured blindness. Does that mean that we are anti blind people or that blind people don't deserve to live? No, but if you can stop an issue from happening and you've got to know this is funded by the pharmaceutical industry, are we really going to spend today this week ignoring just because we've got to make sure that that, you know, we, you know, say that autism is okay, that we don't address the fact that we're 1 in 12 point five boys in California.

**[02:04:56] Del Bigtree**

That number is so incredibly staggering. It sucks the breath right out of me. You know, all the other conditions that Robert Kennedy is going to be is going to be looking at. 77% of our kids could not qualify to be in the military or protect this nation. This is a national security crisis, but it's a human crisis. It's a tragedy. Can we get away from mincing words? Can we not let pharma infiltrate this. Can we start saying Thank God we are going to do an investigation into this? Does anybody really think it would be a crime if we can find what's doing it and make sure that no infant ever has their brain swell again, ever has a resulting symptom of autism? Is that really is that going to be a problem for somebody? I don't think so. And by the way, I want to point out, I believe that every one of those children out there, even the ones that are going to Yale, I know you've had more expensive health issues. You've had to, get different types of education and training, and it's cost your parents and those that are in this fortunes. Once we figure out what did this and we get into being able to sue and work it out, I assure you, funding all of these families and all of these people that have had to deal with autism, that is the very next step and that is around the corner.

**[02:06:21] Del Bigtree**

Everyone that has been injured by whatever product has done, it deserves to be compensated. That's what we're working towards. It is a very exciting week for me and for my staff, some of whom, um, have, uh, vaccine injury in their own families. We are finally getting there. We are finally have a voice inside of Washington that is doing the studies. Meanwhile, as the rats scramble around and try and hide the databases or burn them so that we cannot do the studies, do not lose hope. We are not going to give up. We will find a way. And by the way, when they start scrambling like that, you know the answers are there. So to the answers to those that seek them and to those like Leslie, that figures out a way, without a law degree, to go in and write the most powerful medical freedom bill there ever was. May we all aspire to be the greatest version of ourselves. Right now, in the most, you know, important time there is. One of those is Robert Kennedy Jr. He's being recognized as one of the most important 100 influential people in 2025. He sure is. Love you Bobby. Keep up the good work. And for all of you out there, just do the next right thing. Start really celebrating how capable and powerful you are. Nothing limits you except yourself. Believe. Have faith. Have fun. And I'll see you next week.

**END OF TRANSCRIPT**