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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

June 29, 2026

Kumsal Bayazit
Chief Executive Officer
Elsevier

Lawrence Lash, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief
Toxicology Reports

Dear Ms. Bayazit and Dr. Lash:

On April 9, 2026, the editorial board of *Toxicology Reports* removed from its website a 2021 article by Neil Z. Miller, entitled, “Vaccines and sudden infant death: An analysis of the VAERS database 1990-2019 and review of the medical literature.” According to the removal notice, the decision was a result of “serious methodological flaws” discovered in the article.¹ This decision was reportedly driven by anonymous comments made on a post-publication discussion board called PubPeer.² The decision to remove this peer-reviewed article five years after the article was first published raises questions about the integrity of the scientific review process at the journal. I, therefore, request the production of documents pertaining to the article’s removal.

On June 24, 2021, following peer review, *Toxicology Reports* posted Miller’s article online.³ The article analyzed cases of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (“SIDS”) in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (“VAERS”) and gave a comprehensive review of the medical literature.⁴ According to the article, the analysis “found that a substantial proportion of infant deaths and SIDS cases occurred” shortly after vaccination.⁵ The paper noted, “[w]hile the findings . . . are not proof of an association between infant vaccines and infant deaths, they are

¹ Removal notice to “Vaccines and sudden infant death: An analysis of the VAERS database 1990–2019 and review of the medical literature,” *Toxicology Reports*, (April 9, 2026), <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214750026000521>.

² Jessica Rose, PubPeer responsible for the SIDS paper removal based on a tweet, Unacceptable Jessica, (June 23, 2026), https://jessicar.substack.com/p/pubpeer-responsible-for-the-sids?img=https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-media.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2Fb89441d0-70ce-4079-a34a-d7e73b140251_738x1214.jpeg&open=false.

³ Neil Miller, Vaccines and sudden infant death: An analysis of the VAERS database 1990–2019 and review of the medical literature, *Toxicology Reports*, (June 24, 2021), <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8255173/pdf/main.pdf>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

highly suggestive of a causal relationship.”⁶ Miller concluded in his article that “[a]dditional investigation is warranted.”⁷

In November 2021, only a few months after its initial publication, two comments to the article were posted by an anonymous user on PubPeer, a popular post-publication discussion board.⁸ The comments provided links and screenshots to a Twitter thread by a user named “Rosewind.”⁹ According to a May 26, 2026 article, “Magdalen R. Wind-Mozley, a former forensic scientist and vaccine advocate based in Newbury, England, condemned the analysis on X [under the username “Rosewind”] and contacted the journal in 2022 to call for [Miller’s article’s] retraction[.]”¹⁰ It appears that there were no other comments posted on PubPeer prior to *Toxicology Reports*’ issuance of its removal notice.¹¹

According to reports, on December 18, 2025, four years after the comments were posted on PubPeer, Miller received an email from *Toxicology Reports*’ Editor-in-Chief, Lawrence Lash, raising “[c]oncerns from multiple parties” regarding “potential research errors and misleading statements about vaccine efficacy” contained in the article.¹² Lash included a link to PubPeer and the Twitter thread and requested a response from Miller.¹³ Lash stated he would discuss Miller’s response with the “parties” who had raised concerns about the article.¹⁴ Miller reportedly sent his responses to representatives of both *Toxicology Reports* and *Elsevier*, the owner of *Toxicology Reports*, though it is unclear when he submitted them.¹⁵

According to an April 9, 2026 notice posted on *Toxicology Reports*’ website, Miller’s article was removed from the journal “at the request of the Editor-in-Chief.”¹⁶ Regarding Miller’s analysis, the removal notice stated, in part, that “serious methodological flaws were identified in the use of VAERS data to infer a correlation between vaccination and sudden infant death syndrome[.]”¹⁷ This given explanation for the removal, however, failed to acknowledge

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ PubPeer, Vaccines and sudden infant death: An analysis of the VAERS database 1990-2019 and review of the medical literature, <https://pubpeer.com/publications/C02A9C1F937150E44015877641F4F9>.

⁹ *Id.* Until 2023, the social media platform X was formerly known as Twitter.

¹⁰ Retraction Watch, Elsevier retracts study tying sudden infant death syndrome to vaccinations, (May 26, 2026), <https://retractionwatch.com/2026/05/26/elsevier-retracts-study-tying-sudden-infant-death-syndrome-to-vaccinations/> (the article included a link to Wind-Mozley’s X critique, which was the Rosewind critique included in the PubPeer anonymous comment from 2021).

¹¹ PubPeer, Vaccines and sudden infant death: An analysis of the VAERS database 1990-2019 and review of the medical literature, <https://pubpeer.com/publications/C02A9C1F937150E44015877641F4F9>.

¹² Jessica Rose, PubPeer responsible for the SIDS paper removal based on a tweet, Unacceptable Jessica, (June 23, 2026), https://jessicar.substack.com/p/pubpeer-responsible-for-the-sids?img=https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-media.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2Fb89441d0-70ce-4079-a34a-d7e73b140251_738x1214.jpeg&open=false.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Removal notice to “Vaccines and sudden infant death: An analysis of the VAERS database 1990–2019 and review of the medical literature,” *Toxicology Reports*, (April 9, 2026), <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214750026000521>.

¹⁷ *Id.*

Miller's own recognition of similar limitations in his article, where he noted that the data merely suggested a causal relationship warranting further investigation.¹⁸

The removal of Miller's article is not the first time anonymous comments on PubPeer have had an undue influence on scientific research. Just earlier this month, I held a hearing titled, "Plausible Mechanisms of COVID-19 Injections Causing Cancer and Attacks on Scientific Publications and Research."¹⁹ At this hearing, panelists, including Wafik El-Deiry, the director of Brown University's Cancer Center, discussed the negative impact PubPeer has had on their careers, their research, and their ability to receive grant funding for further research.²⁰

I echo concerns raised by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. in his June 11, 2026 letter to Lash regarding the removal of Miller's article.²¹ As Secretary Kennedy wrote, "[t]he public deserves to know how and if the scientific publishing industry is taking its duty to ensure research integrity seriously and ethically."²² For too long the suffering of the vaccine injured has gone completely ignored by the legacy media and the scientific community. On July 15, 2025, I held a hearing entitled, "Voices of the Vaccine Injured," where a number of individuals who suffered serious injuries and, in some instances, the death of a loved one following administration of various vaccines, courageously offered their testimony.²³ During that hearing, I played a video where one grieving mother stated that at support group meetings for parents who had lost a child to SIDS:

"every parent, every single parent there, would bring up vaccines and ask. Every story had vaccines involved. A lot of them, a child died the next day. That vaccines—high-pitched scream, projectile vomit, whatever, until they died within less than 24 hours. So we were all asking our SIDS support group leader, you know, is there a connection? Just seems like all of us feel like vaccines are involved."²⁴

We owe it to this mother and all parents that have lost a child to SIDS to encourage and promote—instead of discourage and remove—medical research into the potential connection between vaccines and pediatric deaths. In order to better understand *Elsevier's* and *Toxicology Reports'* decision to remove Miller's June 24, 2021 article from publication, please provide the following information:

¹⁸ Neil Miller, Vaccines and sudden infant death: An analysis of the VAERS database 1990–2019 and review of the medical literature, *Toxicology Reports*, (June 24, 2021), <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8255173/pdf/main.pdf>.

¹⁹ *Plausible Mechanisms of COVID-19 Injections Causing Cancer and Attacks on Scientific Publications and Research*, Hearing before the Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations (119th Cong.).

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ See Letter from Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary, Dep't of Health and Human Services, to Lawrence Lash, Ph.D., Wayne State University School of Medicine, Dept. of Pharmacology, June 11, 2026, <https://x.com/SecKennedy/status/2066551769006538847?s=20>.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Voices of the Vaccine Injured*, Hearing before the Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations (119th Cong.).

²⁴ *Id.*

1. All records²⁵ referring or relating to the decision to remove the article, “Vaccines and sudden infant death: An analysis of the VAERS database 1990–2019 and review of the medical literature,” from publication, including but not limited to:
 - a. All peer reviews conducted on the article;
 - b. Any concerns regarding the article brought to the attention of *Toxicology Reports*’ editorial board since its publication;
 - c. All communications with Magdalen Wind-Mozley;
 - d. All communications with Neil Z. Miller;
 - e. All communications relating to the decision to remove the article; and
 - f. All communications referring or relating to the article and PubPeer.
2. All communications referring or relating to Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.’s June 11, 2026 letter, including but not limited to any response to the June 11, 2026 letter.²⁶

Please produce this information as soon as possible, but no later than July 14, 2026.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services

²⁵ “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (such as texts, emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

²⁶ Letter from Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary, Dep’t of Health and Human Services, to Lawrence Lash, Ph.D., Wayne State University School of Medicine, Dept. of Pharmacology, June 11, 2026, <https://x.com/SecKennedy/status/2066551769006538847?s=20>.