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Republicans want to repeal legal protection for vaccine manufacturers

November 12, 2024 by [Thomas Oysmüller](#) 2.2 minutes reading time

A nearly 40-year-old law gives vaccine manufacturers de facto legal immunity from lawsuits. Republicans now want to change that.

Since 1986, vaccine manufacturers in the USA have had legal immunity for their products. [TKP reported on this unique law](#) , which protects Big Pharma and provides legal protection for vaccine production, just last week. Critics are calling for an end to this regulation - and initial signals from Republicans are promising.

In 1986, the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act was passed with the argument, among others, that vaccines were a less profitable area of the pharmaceutical industry. This has now

changed drastically - especially since Covid-19. But the legal regulations in the USA still apply as they did then. Another argument was that individual vaccine injuries would occur. If there was full liability, no one would want to produce vaccines anymore.

Now the Republicans have taken control of the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the White House. As the list of donors shows, Trump received far less money for his election campaign from BigPharma than Harris. And one Republican, Thomas Massie from Kentucky and one of the harshest critics of Covid vaccinations, is showing motivation and giving pharmaceutical critics hope. After all, some observers had said that the second Trump administration would also be judged on whether this legal regulation for vaccines was repealed.

On Monday, Massie wrote on X: "*The new Congress begins on January 3rd, but President Trump will not take office until January 20th. With majorities in the House and Senate, we should have at least a dozen bills on his desk waiting for his signature by day one of his term!*"

In response, an anonymous account said: "*Thomas, can you please introduce a bill HR1 to repeal the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, specifically the provision that exempts vaccine manufacturers from liability? Let's introduce this bill on the first day of the new Congress. Let's get this over with!*"

Massie's answer received much attention because he replied:

"I believe Paul Glosar [Representative of the House] has a bill to that effect that I co-sponsor. It needs to be (re-)submitted for the new Congress after we meet on January 3, 2025."

With this promise, Massie is once again raising expectations for the new legislative period. If the law is repealed, Big Pharma will have one less joker in the USA that protects them from legal proceedings and prosecution. The Republicans now have a free hand thanks to their election victory and cannot blame the Democrats. It is in their hands.