UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

THERESA CEDILLO AND MICHAEL)		
CEDILLO, AS PARENTS AND)		
NATURAL GUARDIANS OF)		
MICHELLE CEDILLO,)		
)		
Petitioners,)		
)		
V.)	Docket No.:	98-916V
)		
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND)		
HUMAN SERVICES,)		
)		
Respondent.)		

REVISED AND CORRECTED COPY

Pages: 2870 through 2917

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: June 26, 2007

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IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

THERESA CEDILLO AND MICHAEL CEDILLO, AS PARENTS AND) NATURAL GUARDIANS OF) MICHELLE CEDILLO,) Petitioners,) Docket No.: 98-916V v.)) SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND) HUMAN SERVICES,)

Respondent.

Ceremonial Courtroom
National Courts Building
717 Madison Place NW
Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The parties met, pursuant to notice of the Court, at $9:02 \ a.m.$

BEFORE: HONORABLE GEORGE L. HASTINGS, JR.
HONORABLE PATRICIA CAMPBELL-SMITH
HONORABLE DENISE VOWELL
Special Masters

APPEARANCES:

For the Petitioners:

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APPEARANCES: (Cont'd.)

Also for the Petitioners:

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For the Respondent:

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For Petitioners Steering Committee:

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C O N T E N T S

VOIR

WITNESSES: DIRECT CROSS REDIRECT RECROSS DIRE

REBUTTAL WITNESS

For the Petitioners:

Theresa Cedillo 2874 -- -- --

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(9:02 a.m.)
3	SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Good morning to
4	all of you in the courtroom and at home. We are here
5	for what would appear to be the final day of this test
6	case in the Omnibus Autism Proceeding.
7	Last night before we concluded the
8	government ended its case in chief, and I understand,
9	Ms. Chin-Caplan, that you want to call Mrs. Cedillo
10	back to the stand for rebuttal testimony.
11	MS. CHIN-CAPLAN: That's correct, Special
12	Master.
13	SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Mrs. Cedillo,
14	would you please take the stand?
15	MS. CEDILLO: Do I need to clip this on?
16	SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: I think it would
17	be probably a good idea.
18	MS. CEDILLO: Okay.
19	SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: You can go have a
20	seat. Go ahead and put your microphone on, and then
21	I'll swear you in.
22	MS. CEDILLO: Okay. It says low battery.
23	SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: All right. Will
24	you raise your right hand for me?
25	MS. CEDILLO: Yes.

2874 CEDILLO - DIRECT 1 Whereupon, 2 THERESA CEDILLO 3 having been previously duly sworn, was recalled as a rebuttal witness herein and was examined 4 and testified further in rebuttal as follows: 5 6 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Okay. Ms. Chin-7 Caplan, please go ahead. 8 MS. CHIN-CAPLAN: Thank you, Special Master. 9 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. CHIN-CAPLAN: 10 11 Ms. Cedillo, I'd like you to tell us a 12 little bit more about Michelle when she was younger. 13 Did she babble at some point in her life? 14 Yes, she did. Can you hear me okay? I 15 don't have a microphone, but okay. 16 Yes, she did. I remember my niece, 17 Jeniffer. Michelle was probably around nine months 18 old. 19 Let me clip this on here. Okay. Is that better? Okay. 20 21 Michelle was about nine months old, and 22 Jeniffer would come over. Michelle loved Jeniffer, my 23 niece, and so they would have their own little 24 conversation with the little baby babble back and forth. She had already been doing that for several 25 Heritage Reporting Corporation (202) 628-4888

CEDILLO - DIRECT

1	months.

3 acquire words?

1

2

- 4 Yes, she did. Α
- 5 Could you tell the Court what words she had?

At some point in time did she begin to

- 6 Yes. She was very small, between the seven
- 7 and nine month old range, where I would hold her on
- 8 the bathroom sink and she could see herself, her
- 9 reflection in the vanity mirror. I'd say where's the
- baby? There's the baby. She would touch the mirror 10
- 11 and say be-be, be-be.
- 12 She continued to develop words. She would
- 13 say ke-ke for kitties. When she see - We had some
- 14 cats that would come by. We'd feed them outside. We
- 15 had a big picture window in the front, so she would
- 16 stand at the window and say ke-ke, ke-ke. She'd touch
- 17 on the big window on the glass.
- 18 When the children were walking to school --
- 19 we live very close to two schools. One of them is the
- 20 grade school, so when the children would be walking to
- 21 school in the morning she would bang on the window and
- 22 go I, I, I, as though they could hear her, but of
- 23 course they couldn't.
- 24 Let's see. When my mom would come over
- every morning -- well, almost every morning -- she'd 25

CEDILLO - DIRECT

- 1 pick her up and hold her up to the crucifix, and she'd
- 2 say who's that? Who's that? She'd touch it and then
- 3 she'd say that's Jesus, and so then eventually when my
- 4 mom would say who's that she'd say Je-jus.
- When my husband would go to work she'd hold
- 6 her hand up this way, and she'd go be-be addy, be-be
- 7 addy.
- 8 She used to love to eat apple, so when I was
- 9 slicing apple she'd see me. Apple, apple, apple.
- 10 Then I'd give her the apple, and then she'd quit
- 11 saying apple.
- 12 Q So by the time she was about one year old
- she was saying all these things?
- 14 A Oh, yes.
- 15 Q And she was communicating all these things
- 16 to you?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Did she do it on a repeated basis?
- 19 A Yes, she did.
- 20 Q Did you read to her at nighttime?
- 21 A Yes, we did. My husband and I both read to
- 22 her almost every single night.
- 23 Q And when you read to her, what did Michelle
- 24 do?
- 25 A She had her favorite books, and she would

CEDILLO - DIRECT

- 1 point to the characters on the pages. They were the
- 2 baby board books, so if it was Mickey Mouse or if it
- 3 was the babies.
- 4 There were some that ended, you know, 10
- 5 babies, and she'd point to the babies and to the
- 6 characters and the figures in the book.
- 7 Q Okay. So when you said the word, she would
- 8 pick out the individual characters in the book and
- 9 point to them?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 O We saw a lot of Sesame Street on the video.
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Was there a reason you were filming Sesame
- 14 Street so often?
- 15 A Yes. If you'll notice when you review the
- 16 video, the segments that were recorded. There are
- 17 many segments of just the Sesame Street, but if you
- 18 notice it's just the opening song. The reason for
- 19 that is because -- well, two. One is Michelle loved
- 20 Sesame Street and the characters on it, and she was
- 21 starting to say Big Bird, or trying in baby talk to
- 22 say Big Bird.
- 23 It sounded so cute. We were trying We
- 24 repeatedly recorded that opening scene so we could try
- 25 and capture her on the video saying Big Bird. I think

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CEDILLO - DIRECT

- 1 towards the end there we got pretty close on one of
- 2 them, but she

CEDILLO - DIRECT

- 1 would get very excited and happy with the opening
- 2 song.
- 3 Q Was that one of the words that she had, Big
- 4 Bird?
- 5 A Big Bird and Bert; both.
- 6 Q Now, when she heard the music did she do
- 7 anything?
- 8 A Oh, yes. My mom and dad were always telling
- 9 her dance, Michelle. Dance to the music. She would
- 10 respond, dancing with her hands and feet. You know,
- if she was sitting she'd move her hands and feet.
- 12 Q We noticed that your father used to play the
- 13 harmonica to her.
- 14 A Yes. Yes, he did.
- 15 Q There was a scene that says what does Grampy
- 16 do. What was that about?
- 17 A Oh, yes. That's in the 12-17-95 video. I
- 18 asked her what does Grampy do, because that is what he
- 19 would tell her. She went haaaa, like that, because he
- 20 would show her the harmonica. This is what Grampy
- does, haaaa, to blow into the harmonica.
- So she was imitating. Michelle was
- associating my father, Grampy, with the harmonica with
- how he had taught her to do that sound.
- 25 Q Now, there was a scene in one of the videos

CEDILLO - DIRECT

- 1 where Dr. Fombonne indicated that Michelle was
- 2 demonstrating hand regard.
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Do you know what hand regard is?
- 5 A Yes, I do.
- 6 Q Could you just describe to the Court the
- 7 scene that Dr. Fombonne was referring to?
- 8 A Okay. It was the 12-17-95 video where she's
- 9 in the ball pit. He's referring to where she pulls
- 10 her hand back to look at it, but what you're probably
- 11 not aware is that my mom, her grandmother, had been
- 12 teaching her to blow kisses. Of course, when babies
- 13 blow kisses, you know, she was just doing that.
- 14 That's the motion she was doing.
- 15 I asked her where's Grammy. I don't think I
- 16 said what's Grammy doing. I think I said where's
- Grammy, so Michelle went to blow her kisses, because
- 18 that's what my mom had been showing her to do, but
- 19 Michelle was also teething so her whole chin was full
- of saliva, so when she put her hand against her mouth
- 21 and pulled it away her hand was all wet. She held it
- 22 up to look at the saliva.
- 23 Q I'd like to show you some photos.
- 24 A Uh-huh.
- 25 Q Could you describe to the Court when this

CEDILLO - DIRECT

- 1 photo was taken?
- 2 A Okay. That was taken when Michelle was
- 3 approximately three months and maybe one and a half
- 4 weeks, almost two weeks old. It was Christmas, her
- 5 first Christmas portrait.
- 6 Q Is she smiling here?
- 7 A Yes, she is.
- 8 Q And this was her first official photograph?
- 9 Is that it?
- 10 A First official portrait I think. She might
- 11 have had one the day she was born, you know, when the
- 12 photographer at the hospital comes in, but yes.
- 13 Q And can you tell the Court when this photo
- 14 was taken?
- 15 A She was probably between six and seven, six
- 16 to eight months range, and she was playing with a
- 17 pumpkin and some little Halloween characters that we
- 18 had bought her.
- 19 I put a hat on her head, even though she
- 20 wasn't going to wear it. I just thought it was a cute
- 21 picture.
- 22 Q And when was this photo taken?
- 23 A That was taken in November of 1995, so she
- 24 would have been 14 months old. That's about one month
- 25 prior to the MMR vaccination.

2881 CEDILLO - DIRECT 1 And this photo? Q 2 That photo was taken July 25, 2003. That 3 was one day prior to her being hospitalized for 18 4 days. At that point she was very sick with 5 6 malnutrition. She had a bleeding disorder from the 7 malnutrition. She had been self-abusing very 8 severely. She was in a lot of abdominal and other 9 pain at this point. She had uveitis -- you can see the redness 10 11 around her eyes -- but we didn't know at the time what 12 it was. She needed a lot of medical care at this 13 point. She did not have a feeding tube, but did get a 14 feeding tube through surgery placed while she was in 15 the hospital during that stay. 16 O Mrs. Cedillo, there seems to be some black 17 and blue marks on her thighs. 18 Α Yes. 19 0 Is this where Michelle was striking herself? 20 Α Yes, it is. 21 Just one last question. Q 22 Α Yes?

How has Michelle's illness affected your

23

Q

1 was healthy and well and happy. She got the MMR. She

CEDILLO - DIRECT

got the fever and became very, very sick. It has been

a long 10 or 10 « years since she became sick trying to

find out what has happened to her and also trying to

5 get the care that she needs.

6 Her subsequent illness has not only affected

Michelle, but it's affected our entire family. As you

8 can see, we have quite a bit of family support, which

9 I'm eternally grateful for, but it has affected

10 everyone. My parents have spent their retirement

11 helping us to care for Michelle.

12 My husband doesn't take vacation anymore.

13 All his time off is usually for driving to

14 appointments. Actually, you know, on a bigger scale

15 we don't even take vacations with Michelle because

it's too unpleasant for her or she's too sick or she's

just having a very bad time.

18 And her childhood - You know, she'll be 13.

19 She'll be a teenager in just a couple of months. Her

20 young childhood was spent instead of at the fun

21 places, you know, the times you enjoy with your child,

they were spent at doctors' offices or hospitals or

getting very unpleasant procedures done.

I cannot emphasize enough how much suffering

25 Michelle has endured. She is a very sick child. She

CEDILLO - DIRECT

- 1 has such an enormous will to live and to go on, and
- 2 she has given us all a lot of strength and she has
- 3 taught us all a lot about life and about living and
- 4 about trying and to keep trying. You know, it has
- 5 been all encompassing completely.
- 6 MS. CHIN-CAPLAN: Thank you.
- 7 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you. I don't
- 8 know if I'm done.
- 9 MS. CHIN-CAPLAN: No further questions.
- 10 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Any questions?
- 11 MS. RICCIARDELLA: We have no questions.
- 12 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Mrs. Cedillo,
- 13 thank you very much again for all your testimony.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 15 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: You may be
- 16 excused.
- 17 THE WITNESS: For the record, I just need to
- 18 state also we all -- my family and all of us -- admire
- 19 and want to thank you for the great respect all of you
- 20 have shown all of us during this time.
- 21 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Thank you, Mrs.
- 22 Cedillo. We are very grateful for you folks coming
- 23 here and bringing Michelle to meet us.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 25 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: We greatly

CEDILLO - DIRECT

1 appreciate your testimony and your participation

THE WITNESS: Thank you. Thank you very

4 much.

2

5 (Witness excused.)

throughout this.

6 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: So I assume that

7 concludes the Petitioners' rebuttal case?

8 MS. CHIN-CAPLAN: It does, Special Master.

9 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: All right. For

those of you, both in the courtroom and at home, who

11 have watched a lot of trials on TV you know that often

12 at the end of a case we have something called closing

13 arguments, which is when the attorneys for each side

sort of summarize or recap the testimony for the jury

or the Judge and argue why, based on the testimony

16 that's been heard throughout the case, their side

17 should win.

18 In complex civil cases, and this certainly

is a complex civil case, such cases where we don't

20 have a jury, more common than closing argument is we

21 have posttrial briefs, so instead of trying to stand

22 up and summarize all the testimony orally in an

argument before a jury, in a case like this the

24 attorneys will take the transcripts, take all the

25 hundreds or thousands of exhibits and thousands of

1	pages of records that are part of our record in this
2	case and make their argument based on that, do it in
3	written form in briefs.
4	The Petitioners will file a brief, the
5	Respondent will file a reply brief, and the
6	Petitioners will get another chance to do a brief. In
7	a case like this that's a more efficient way of doing
8	it. Because of the huge amount of documents and
9	testimony in the record, the parties will certainly
LO	get a better chance to fully explain their view of the
L1	evidence by that means.
L2	So we're not going to have the type of
L3	closing argument, a full-scale closing argument
L4	summary summarizing all the evidence that you might
L5	have expected.
L6	However, the Petitioners' counsel has asked
L7	to make a brief closing statement we'll call it a
L8	closing statement instead of closing argument that
L9	is addressed more to the public listening or the
20	families listening to the case or here in the
21	courtroom more sort of summarizing giving us a sort of
22	a closing summary to them.
23	I stress that it's not intended to fully
24	summarize all the evidence of the case. Ms. Chin-
25	Caplan and her co-attorneys will do that in a written

- 1 brief. She's just going to give a brief statement at
- 2 this point.
- With that, Ms. Chin-Caplan, why don't you go
- 4 ahead?
- 5 MS. CHIN-CAPLAN: Mr. Powers will be doing
- 6 that.
- 7 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: I'm sorry. Mr.
- 8 Powers is going to do it. I'm sorry.
- 9 Mr. Powers, come on up. We have a clip
- 10 microphone for you. I know during the opening
- 11 statements some of the people at home had trouble
- hearing. Since we're doing this for their benefit in
- large part, we want to make sure that they hear.
- 14 Please go ahead, sir, when you're ready.
- MR. POWERS: Thank you, Special Masters, and
- thank you for the opportunity to give a closing
- 17 statement here, and thank you for unburdening us of
- having to attempt to summarize all of the evidence and
- 19 to try to do it in about 20 minutes.
- That simply couldn't happen, but it is
- 21 important to summarize the case for you all, sort of
- 22 all of us who have been here, to sort of get our heads
- above the clouds of the evidence and really just walk
- through what we've heard and convey that message to
- 25 the folks who are participating or attending

1	telephonically or via the web or transcripts or
2	however.
3	The evidence summarized very, very briefly
4	is straightforward. You have a case here that is a
5	test case for the theory, the general theory that the
6	combination of exposure to thimerosal-containing
7	vaccines with a significant dose of ethyl mercury
8	early in a child's life, combined then with MMR, can
9	result in a complex system response that presents
LO	symptoms that can get diagnosed as autism.
L1	And in particular a suppressed immune system
L2	from the thimerosal in the vaccines, the introduction
L3	of the attenuated live measles virus then persists,
L4	and the persistence of that virus leading to a complex
L5	biological process of disease and a wide range of
L6	symptoms from gastrointestinal symptoms to
L7	neurodevelopmental and neurological symptoms that in
L8	Michelle's case have been diagnosed as autism.
L9	That's the evidence that you've heard from
20	toxicologists, immunologists. You've heard virology
21	testimony, gastroenterologists, pediatric neurologists
22	all describing the evidence and presenting the
23	evidence to you.
24	You've heard in sum a medical theory, a
25	medical theory that links the exposures together, a

1	medical theory that links the vaccines and the vaccine
2	component, thimerosal, to the injury.
3	You've heard a logical sequence of cause and
4	effect not just in the timing of the vaccines and the
5	occurrence of the injury, but the timing of the
6	biological processes within Michelle, and you'll see
7	in other cases in other children, so it's a logical
8	sequence of cause and effect.
9	There is the temporal relationship, the
10	timing relationship between the exposures and the
11	occurrence of the injury. All this has been supported
12	by the evidence. All of this is biologically
13	plausible, and we posit that more likely than not in
14	Michelle's case. The Petitioners' evidence describes
15	what happened. It describes causation, and it
16	describes it in a way that meets the burden of proof
17	in this program.
18	One thing you don't need to be reminded of,
19	but perhaps folks who are listening in, the standard
20	is not scientific certainty. It is not scientific
21	certainty, and we certainly concede, as we did in our
22	opening and as we have all along, that there is debate
23	on the science. There's a lot of debate. There's
24	been over two weeks of debate in this room on the
25	science, but the burden isn't certainty. It's more

1	likely than not, and that burden has been satisfied.
2	We've heard from an army of experts from
3	both sides, but particularly from Respondent's side, a
4	huge amount of evidence arguing that this just
5	couldn't be, but when we sort through all of that
6	evidence there's really no other cause that, if
7	posited, is viable. This is the more likely cause.
8	I mean, you've heard everything from
9	genetics, but nobody's been able to associate a single
10	gene with a single symptoms. You've heard
11	epidemiology that well, doesn't actually fit the facts
12	of this case. I could go on and on, but those are the
13	type of evidence that you've heard, despite the
14	quantity, despite the quantity of that evidence,
15	qualitatively doesn't add up to defeating the
16	Petitioners' case here.
17	And this is a comment that is directed
18	toward, and I'll be frank about it. It's directed
19	more completely to people outside this room and
20	particularly those in the news media. I've been
21	following the press coverage. As you all might have
22	seen too, Special Masters, there has been press
23	coverage here.
24	One of the messages that I have picked up in
25	the media is really sort of castigating the Cedillo

1	family and other Petitioners for even attempting to
2	get compensation in this program, saying that if they
3	get compensation then they're going to drive people
4	away from vaccines and it's therefore an antivaccine
5	message.
6	But for those folks who have been
7	promulgating that message outside the building, you
8	have to listen to what's going on inside the building,
9	and there has not been a single witness on
10	Petitioners' side of the case saying that vaccines are
11	bad, that we should stop using vaccines, that the
12	measles vaccine shouldn't be used, that the MMR
13	vaccine shouldn't be used.
14	There has not been a single bit of
15	antivaccine evidence in the room, and it can't support
16	an argument outside the room that this family or the
17	other families who are in the program are out to hurt
18	vaccine programs, vaccine coverage and certainly have
19	no interest in doing anything that could be
20	interpreted as opening the doors to infectious
21	diseases.
22	As we talked about in the opening, this case
23	is about trust; the trust that the Cedillos and the
24	other families had in the safety of the immunization
25	program that they and their children participated in.

1	They trusted that program, and they
2	unfortunately are among the rare fortunately it's
3	rare number of children, but unfortunately for
4	those people who fall into that rare group this is
5	where they need to be, so they trusted the vaccine
6	program and they now are trusting you all here in the
7	Court of Claims to adjudicate their claims fairly.
8	It is about the social compact and it is
9	about trust, and again to those outside the room the
10	families should not be disparaged because they are
11	doing what Congress has said they need to do if they
12	think they were injured by coming here.
13	They're living up and they have lived up to
14	their end of the social compact, and on the issue of
15	trust in the social compact Mrs. Cedillo said it
16	better than I could say it in terms of what's happened
17	in this case.
18	The care, the attention, the resources that
19	you, Special Masters, and the program have put into
20	hearing this case and to setting up the omnibus
21	proceeding to decide all these other cases is
22	certainly appreciated and respected.
23	This hearing has been as open and
24	transparent as anybody could hope, and that is a huge
25	step forward for the families that are looking for

1	justice in the program because again, all of those
2	families, regardless of the outcome, simply need to
3	know that their trust in getting shots, their trust in
4	following Congress' direction in coming here, will be
5	reciprocated with fairness, with equity and with an
6	open mind to hear the evidence and weigh the evidence
7	under the appropriate standards.
8	And, as I said, in this particular case the
9	evidence does support under the standards that are
10	applicable in the program a fund for the Petitioners
11	and then to use that decision to move forward to
12	resolve other test cases and ultimately to resolve
13	large numbers of cases that are awaiting decisions in
14	the omnibus proceeding.
15	So again, thank you for the indulgence, so
16	to speak, of having a few minutes here to close. We
17	absolutely will be submitting posthearing briefs, and
18	we look forward to speaking with you again in the next
19	case, the next test case and probably many more to
20	come over the course of the next nine to 12 months.
21	Thank you very much.
22	SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Thank you, Mr.
23	Powers.
24	We note that while you were speaking
25	Michelle, who started the hearing with us here, has

1 come back into the room with her father, and I'll	1	come bac	k into	the	room	with	her	father,	and I	[']
---	---	----------	--------	-----	------	------	-----	---------	-------	-----

- 2 speak to them in a minute, but thank you very much for
- 3 your comments.
- 4 Mr. Matanoski, did you want to make any kind
- 5 of a closing statement?
- 6 MR. MATANOSKI: Yes, sir, I did.
- 7 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Please go ahead.
- 8 MR. MATANOSKI: Thank you for the
- 9 opportunity. You know from our off-the-record
- 10 comments that I did not favor making a closing
- 11 statement here, knowing that there's closing briefs.
- 12 I know that you would prefer this to be
- brief, and I'm going to try to do that, but
- 14 unfortunately I think it'll be a little bit longer --
- in fact much longer -- than what Mr. Powers had to
- 16 say.
- I would otherwise apologize, but because of
- 18 the importance of the issue here and because I now
- 19 have to come up here to explain the government's
- 20 position and explain our view of the case, I won't
- 21 apologize for taking that time because it's important
- 22 to this case that you hear this.
- 23 What you haven't heard so far from the
- 24 Petitioners -- not in their case, not in their closing
- 25 arguments here -- is whether or not what they've

1	offered is good science for supporting their theory.
2	Now, Daubert requires that. You didn't hear
3	that in Mr. Powers' closing statement. He jumped
4	right ahead to the burden of proof. He missed the
5	important, critical factor that goes into what you can
6	consider as far as it goes to that burden of proof.
7	There's a reason for that, and that is
8	because the Petitioners' case does not rest on good
9	science. It rests on junk science. It rests on the
10	science that is supposed to be left outside that
11	courtroom door.
12	That's not supposed to come in for your
13	consideration at all. It's not legitimate. It's not
14	reliable. There's no studies. There's no textbooks.
15	There's no literature and there is no reliable,
16	legitimate testing behind what they've offered. We've
17	shown each component of the PSC case to be
18	inconsistent with the norms of good science. It's
19	speculative, it's untested, and at the most critical
20	junctures it's contradicted by known facts.
21	Now, I understand this is a bench trial, and
22	there is a difference between a bench trial and a jury
23	trial, but the Daubert standards still apply. Those
24	standards must be applied even in a bench trial to
25	determine whether or not you consider the evidence.

1 Now, there's a motivation behind the PSC to 2. jump ahead to the burden of proof. They want you to 3 turn a blind eye on whether the evidence they've 4 offered is reliable. They want you to turn a blind 5 eye on whether the evidence they've offered comports 6 with the accepted standards of science, even though 7 they are offering it as scientific evidence. They've alleged that what the Respondent is 8 9 requiring is scientific certainty as far as evidence. 10 What's at issue here isn't what the Respondent is requiring. It's what the law requires. The law 11 12 doesn't require scientific certainty. Daubert doesn't 13 require scientific certainty, but it certainly 14 requires science; good science, not junk science. What you've been offered is a series of 15 16 fanciful notions that are backed up only by the fact that someone has offered them who has a couple letters 17 after their name, M.D. or Ph.D. That does not make it 18 19 good science. 20 PSC wants to hide from that close scrutiny of the case. They don't want bright lights shining on 21 22 their evidence. They don't want that bright light shining on the review of their evidence. They want to 23 24 jump ahead to the burden of proof and argue it's just 25 more likely than not.

1	That's the same standard that was applied in
2	Daubert. It's the same standard that's applied in
3	every civil case. More likely than not. It's nothing
4	new. It's no lower standard here. It's the same
5	standard. What we're discussing is whether or not
6	they have the evidence that can even be considered for
7	that standard.
8	Unigenetics is a perfect example of that.
9	If you were to determine it was reliable testing that
10	was done by Unigenetics then it comes in and you can
11	consider it as far as it goes to whether they've met
12	their burden of proof.
13	If, however, you take the initial step of
14	deciding whether or not it's reliable and decide that
15	it's not reliable as we think we've demonstrated, then
16	it's not available to consider about whether they've
17	met their burden of proof.
18	In sum, Daubert says check your junk science
19	at the door. It's not coming in the courtroom. Then
20	and only then do we go to the burden of proof and
21	decide whether or not the Petitioners have met the
22	burden of proof.
23	I'm going to be as charitable as I can be
24	about the Petitioners' case here, the PSC case. It's
25	at best speculation, idle speculation. Now, at worst

1	at worst it's a contrivance. It's a contrivance
2	that's been developed and articulated and promoted by
3	its chief proponent, and that's Andrew Wakefield. He
4	promoted it for financial gain. Either way it's not
5	science.
6	Now I'm going to turn a moment to the test
7	case. I think one thing that's been abundantly clear
8	over the past three weeks. We cannot do this in 4,800
9	cases. We cannot do three-week trials in 4,800 cases.
LO	So I'm going to offer to you this plea. Go
L1	beyond the specific facts of this case. Do not rest
L2	on those specific facts. Make application of your
L3	decision to the broader issues that are involved here,
L4	whether or not MMR causes autistic spectrum disorder.
L5	The PSC offered this as a test case and
L6	treated it as such. Hold them to that. Go beyond the
L7	specific facts. We believe we've shown that Michelle
L8	Cedillo suffers from autism. She suffered from it
L9	before she ever got her MMR vaccine. Do not stop at
20	that finding. Go forward and find on each and every
21	factor particular to their theory of the case.
22	There's a reason to do that that's specific
23	to this case. There's contingencies obviously. An
24	appellate court may disagree with you on a particular
25	factual finding, and you'll want those other findings

1	to be there to support whatever finding you have
2	overall in the case.
3	There's also a reason for all these future
4	cases so that we're not here doing three week trials
5	again and again. That's to offer guidance on how
6	those cases will be decided in front of you, how those
7	remaining 4,800 cases will be decided.
8	As you recall, Petitioners Steering
9	Committee said that this theory affects a significant
10	number of cases. In fact, they offered or one firm
11	offered that 80 percent of their 1,200 cases rise or
12	fall on this theory.
13	You need to find whether or not Michelle
14	Cedillo's autism occurred before her vaccine. You
15	need to find whether the PSC has proven that autistic
16	spectrum disorders can be caused by MMR.
17	Whether or not there's inflammation in
18	Michelle's Cedillo bowel or intestines, you need to
19	find whether or not MMR can cause autistic spectrum
20	disorder. Whether or not they recovered measles virus
21	from Michelle Cedillo's bowel biopsy, you need to make
22	a finding on whether or not MMR causes autistic
23	spectrum disorder.
24	I know I've mentioned several times in the
25	course of these proceedings Andrew Wakefield and his

1	theory, and there's a reason for that. That's because
2	all the strands through these cases come back to him.
3	He presented bad science.
4	I'm going to run through the chronology
5	again because it's important, the chronology of how
6	this arose and how it was promoted. In 1996, Andrew
7	Harris, a firm of solicitors in Great Britain,
8	approached Andrew Wakefield and asked him to consult
9	with them in cases involving MMR, allegations of MMR
LO	causing autism. Andrew Wakefield was paid 55,000
L1	pounds for his efforts at that point.
L2	Andrew Wakefield in 1997 took out a patent
L3	for a monovalent measles vaccine. In 1998, he
L4	published the paper that caused the stir that we've
L5	now seen reinterpreted, rearticulated a number of
L6	times until more than 10 years later we have it in our
L7	courtroom today.
L8	He did not reveal at the time that he
L9	published that paper that he had this financial
20	interest. He did not reveal that several of his
21	patients in that paper were in fact litigants in the
22	MMR litigation.
23	In 1998, Andrew Wakefield approached John
24	O'Leary and consulted with him. John O'Leary went on
25	to set up Unigenetics, a company of which he was the

1	director and shareholder. Unigenetics' purpose was to
2	test samples for the U.K. MMR litigation.
3	Now, you've heard testimony about the
4	reliability of that testing. You've seen the papers
5	that have come out of that lab. In fact, the Uhlmann
6	paper that was discussed here at length and relied on
7	so heavily by the Petitioners, the patients, some of
8	the patients at least, some of the patients in that
9	case study were MMR litigants.
10	There's a direct connection between that
11	litigation and our litigation here. That litigation
12	folded. Unigenetics went away, but we have it back
13	here now in this case. It folded in 2004 after the
14	whistle was blown on Andrew Wakefield and it was
15	revealed his substantial financial connection with
16	ongoing litigation.
17	Now I'm going to try to go through. In the
18	sense of brevity, I'm not going to go through a long
19	recitation of the evidence that's before you. The PSC
20	evidence. Well, it certainly doesn't meet Daubert.
21	Now I want to step aside for a moment. Just
22	saying that you're not antivaccine doesn't give you a
23	pass on proving your good science. Just saying that
24	we're not antivaccine and none of our experts are
25	doesn't give you a pass on proving that you have

- 1 reliable, legitimate evidence backing up your theory.
- 2 It was interesting that the very next
- 3 sentence after saying we're not antivaccine that Mr.
- 4 Powers made was about safety. That is implicated in
- 5 this case. Nothing that the Petitioners Steering
- 6 Committee experts have offered is legitimate, but all
- of what they're saying goes to whether or not the
- 8 vaccine is safe.
- 9 Dr. Aposhian, Dr. Krigsman, Dr. Kennedy, Dr.
- 10 Hepner. All of what they're saying is going to this.
- 11 Dr. Byers, Dr. Kinsbourne. It's all going to whether
- this vaccine is safe or not. That's what is at issue
- 13 here.
- 14 A key point in their evidence is just flat
- out wrong, and I think we've shown that. A key point.
- 16 Dr. Kinsbourne, for example, he was their key witness.
- 17 He said in the course of three pages of the
- transcript, "I don't know that for a fact." "I have
- 19 no idea." "Well, it's resident in the lymphatic
- 20 tissue and maybe elsewhere, but I don't know that."
- 21 "I don't know whether it's the same or different
- 22 process." "I don't know."
- Those were all answers in the course of
- pages in the transcript, 1134 to 1136, answers to
- 25 questions about their theory. How can that make the

1		_	7 1 7 7	' 1 0
1	standard	ΟĪ	reliable	evidence?

- Their key experts, Dr. Byers and Dr.
- 3 Kinsbourne, make a living of testifying. That's their
- 4 job. This courtroom is their place of business. It's
- 5 not the labs. It's not the university. It's not the
- 6 hospital.
- 7 Now, Petitioners want to skip ahead to the
- 8 burden of proof, and this is a secondary argument for
- 9 the Respondent. You only get there if the evidence
- 10 that they offer has come through the courtroom door if
- it is good, reliable evidence. It is not.
- 12 I'm going to address the secondary argument
- here, the burden of proof. I just want it to be
- 14 absolutely clear. We're only there if that evidence
- is reliable.
- 16 The burden of proof considers the type and
- 17 quantum of evidence. You have to consider that before
- 18 you get to that, whether they've met their burden. If
- 19 they've offered scientific evidence it has to be
- 20 qualified as such. They haven't here. They also
- 21 don't meet their burden.
- Their burden is to show a temporal
- association. Do you have one? Could Dr. Kinsbourne
- offer one here? He could not. At critical points he
- 25 said "I don't know" on temporal association.

1	Dr. Aposhian, he had no idea how long
2	immunosuppression would last. Where's the temporal
3	association for the immunosuppression? He offered no
4	testimony on it. Obviously if the onset of the
5	disease has to be consistent with the temporal
6	association and you haven't established one then you
7	can't make that part of the burden.
8	They've never shown that this theoretical
9	mechanism can occur in nature. They've offered you
10	possibles, maybes, mights. Where is the evidence that
11	it occurs in nature?
12	There's been a consistent theme in the PSC's
13	case. It's a consistent theme about their burden
14	here, and it isn't that they have to make more likely
15	than not, though they pay lip service to that. It
16	isn't that they have to make more likely than not.
17	It's that they have to show it's not impossible. It's
18	not impossible.
19	I will cite to you some articles that throw
20	out this possible, and unless the government can prove
21	that it's impossible I meet my burden of proof.
22	That's what's been offered to you.
23	It's ironic that at this point that's when
24	the PSC wants scientific certainty. When it's the
25	government that's coming in and offering evidence that

1	may contradict the possibilities that they've offered
2	they want scientific certainty.
3	Mr. Powers' cross-examination of Dr.
4	Fombonne yesterday was a prime example of this. Now,
5	the PSC has claimed that thimerosal-containing
6	vaccines cause immunosuppression. They've never
7	offered any reliable support in that, but when Dr.
8	Fombonne came on the stand to talk about
9	epidemiological studies that showed no association
10	between thimerosal-containing vaccine and autism the
11	PSC was quick to jump on Dr. Fombonne about dose.
12	Now, where did dose figure into their case
13	before? Did Dr. Aposhian give you any idea of what
14	the importance of dose was? He gave you a chart. He
15	didn't say well, at this dose immunosuppression occurs
16	and lower it doesn't. This is the critical dose.
17	This is the amount that's necessary to cause the
18	effect and this is how long the effects will last.
19	Dose never played into that.
20	But when Dr. Fombonne is offering the
21	epidemiological evidence, Mr. Powers jumps on him and
22	says that study from Denmark had a different dose than
23	is involved here. As it turns out, that dose in
24	Denmark was 125 micrograms whereas here it was 137.5.
25	Throw out a study that looks at the entire population

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25

1	of children in Denmark because of 12.5 micrograms of
2	ethyl mercury.
3	Do you have any evidence upon which to base
4	that? Have they offered any evidence of how that
5	amount is critical to their case; that that difference
6	is somehow important or significant?
7	You heard Dr. Oldstone's article mentioned
8	time and time again. What does that article show?
9	Possibility at best about persistent virus. It's an
10	article that's talking about LCM virus, a virus of
11	mice. It's not talking about measles virus.
12	Again, it's a possibility, and our experts
13	are confronted with doesn't this article say
14	persistent virus can cause unusual disease, an article
15	about LCM virus in mice? If we can't disprove that,
16	apparently the PSC believes it has met its burden.
17	Now, I'm going to spend a little time on
18	this, and I do beg indulgence on this, but I think
19	SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Mr. Matanoski, I
20	thought we had a 20 minute limit on this, so make sure
21	you conclude within that limit. I think you're at 17.
22	MR. MATANOSKI: I'm sorry. I didn't
23	realize. I wish I had the little lights here on the
24	stand to let me know that.
25	I was going to cover the new evidence that

1	was	submitted	yesterday.	I	thought	that	that	would
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- 2 prevent us or would obviate the need for us to have to
- 3 come in with another expert report in this case
- 4 because of this new evidence.
- 5 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Why don't you go
- 6 ahead and address that new evidence?
- 7 MR. MATANOSKI: Thank you, sir. This was
- 8 offered yesterday. It's an editorial. It had the
- 9 prestigious sounding name of the USA World SSPE
- 10 Registry. You're not going to find that anywhere if
- 11 you look for it.
- 12 Apparently this is Dr. Dyken's own creation.
- 13 If you want to contact him you don't go to .edu. You
- don't go to .gov. You go to aol.com. This is in a
- 15 nonindexed journal, and the interesting thing about it
- 16 -- I'm going to cut my comments about this short. He
- says it's a newly described condition that he calls
- interestingly M-I-N-E, MINE. It's something that he
- 19 calls. He's the first to describe it.
- 20 If you look through it he talks about
- 21 they've actually now, according to him, identified
- 22 measles virus in the CSF samples of patients and
- 23 identified it to be vaccine strain. Now, this came
- 24 out in 2004.
- 25 Look at the references in this paper, this

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1 editorial, this editorial that appears in a no	JIIIIUCACU

- 2 journal. They go back to Andrew Wakefield. The
- 3 patients that he looked at apparently were from the
- 4 litigation. The cases that he talked about, he
- 5 referred to Alexander Harris.
- This never has been shown by anybody else,
- never repeated, doesn't appear in an indexed journal.
- 8 This is the same stuff we were dealing with with Dr.
- 9 Bradstreet. I don't believe we even have to address
- 10 this any further.
- 11 There's a mistake in the very first line.
- 12 It says that SSPE occurs in immunocompromised
- individuals, and that's not true. You've already
- 14 heard evidence on that.
- I will wrap it up, sir. I did want to talk
- 16 about credibility just briefly. Ask yourself on the
- 17 credibility of witnesses where they're coming from.
- 18 Is their place of business the hospital, or is it the
- 19 courtroom? Do they get paid to testify, or do they
- 20 testify to get paid?
- 21 Measles virus is a killing disease. That's
- been made abundantly clear by the testimony you've
- 23 heard. There's no doubt that autism too is a
- 24 devastating disease. You have to be made of stone not
- to feel sympathy, compassion and profound respect for

1	the	families	that	have	to	deal	with	that	everv	das	√ of

- their lives and for the individuals who are afflicted
- 3 with the disease.
- 4 Nevertheless, that doesn't give you a pass
- on having good science to support an accusation that
- 6 an important weapon by public health eliminating
- 7 measles virus is still available to do that important
- 8 work around the world.
- 9 I've been talking unfortunately for a long
- 10 time. I know that. Thirty minutes or so of argument
- 11 back and forth here. In that 30 minutes, 26 children
- 12 died of measles virus. That's what's at stake as well
- in this proceeding.
- 14 You need to rely on good science before you
- 15 make your decision in this case. Thank you.
- 16 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Thank you, sir.
- 17 Mr. Powers?
- MR. POWERS: Special Master, if I might? I
- 19 have used 12 of the 20 minutes. I'm not even
- 20 proposing to use the remaining eight minutes.
- 21 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Go ahead.
- 22 MR. POWERS: But if we could have a couple
- 23 minutes to wrap up for Petitioners?
- 24 SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: Go ahead. Go
- ahead, please.

1 MR. POWERS: Just a couple of points to 2. address what Mr. Matanoski raised. 3 The first one is on the reliability of 4 evidence and the reliability of science. I just want 5 to emphasize that what you're looking at when you're б making that assessment is methodology. 7 Clearly, clearly the experts disagree on either side of the case about the conclusions to be 8 9 drawn. Their opinions clash. Their interpretation of the evidence is dramatically different from one side 10 to the other. 11 12 But Daubert and any other standard of evidence isn't about the outcomes and the opinions. 13 14 It's about the methodology. When you look at the 15 methodology that the experts in Petitioners' case have 16 relied on, the methodology is sound and it is not junk and it is reliable, and the methodology has generated 17 evidence that meets the burden of proof in the 18 19 program. 20 So that's the first point; that when we're 21 talking about reliability it's methodology, not the 22 opinions generated that you should be assessing. The 23 opinions then obviously come in when you're weighing 24 the evidence, once you've decided that you're considering the evidence. 25

1	The second point to raise is that this is a
2	program that's set up for a lot of reasons, but one of
3	them is to avoid civil litigation, so when we hear the
4	horror stories about the MMR, the measles vaccine
5	being removed from the market, I believe one of the
6	reasons that the families are here is that the claims
7	get resolved here so that these folks don't end up in
8	the civil system and don't start raising all of those
9	issues about threats to the vaccine supply. This is
10	the place to decide them, and you all know what the
11	standards to apply to that decision are.
12	Then the final point I want to make is what
13	this case is about. It is not about Andy Wakefield.
14	It's not. It's about Michelle Cedillo. It's about
15	4,800 families looking for justice. It's about the
16	trust those families had.
17	And to hear a government's case that is
18	based on a smear campaign, a character assassination
19	campaign, hearsay, innuendo, traveling around the
20	world collecting information, using government
21	resources to build a smear campaign about somebody who
22	is not a party, who is not a witness, who is not
23	offering evidence is outrageous. It's not about Andy
24	Wakefield. It's about the Cedillos.
25	Thank you.

1	SPECIAL MASTER HASTINGS: All right. Thank
2	you very much.
3	I want to make a very few, brief comments
4	before we adjourn.
5	First, on the immediate point about the
6	closing arguments, again I stress that to talk about
7	all the evidence, to summarize all the evidence that
8	we have before us here would be hard for anyone. It
9	would be really almost an impossible task, so that's
10	why we are going to have briefs.
11	The full comments that both parties want to
12	make about summarizing the evidence arguing their
13	case, they're going to be able to do that. The brief
14	can be as long as they want, and they're going to get
15	a full chance to do that, take their time, do it fully
16	and completely.
17	If I wasn't clear, originally we were going
18	to propose no closing statements. The Petitioners
19	asked to make a closing statement just to sort of wrap
20	things up for the people listening in. We agreed to
21	that.
22	I think maybe I was not as clear as I should
23	have been in talking about the time limits on that,
24	but I think we got a flavor for both sides here, and
25	we're going to get more than a flavor. We're going to

1	get the full explanation in the closing briefs.
2	I also say to counsel we will also sometime
3	later this week call up and set up another status
4	conference for discussing the timing of the briefs and
5	any other posttrial procedures we need to.
6	A few more comments, and then we'll be done
7	here. First, we again want to thank the Cedillo
8	family for coming to Washington, for being and staying
9	with us throughout this very long hearing. We thank
10	you folks for generously agreeing to have Michelle's
11	case designated as the first test case in the omnibus
12	proceeding.
13	Again, on behalf of myself and my
14	colleagues, as we said at the beginning of the
15	hearing, we extend our sympathy for all you've been
16	through as you described on the witness stand today,
17	for all Michelle has been through. I'm glad that we
18	got to see and meet Michelle at the beginning of the
19	case and that she was here again briefly with us this
20	morning for the end of it.
21	We're trying to appreciate what you've been
22	through, and again we also say that we tremendously
23	admire the way that your whole family not just Mr.
24	and Mrs. Cedillo, but we've met a number of members of
25	family. The way the whole family has rallied around

1	her and done such a wonderful job taking care of her.
2	Mr. and Mrs. Cedillo and other family members, thank
3	you again.
4	We also wish to thank the counsel for both
5	sides who have really done such a wonderful job
6	presenting the evidence to us. We appreciate how hard
7	you've worked over the last few months to get ready
8	for this and the hours you put in just in the last
9	three weeks to actually present the case.
10	I want to thank the expert witnesses as well
11	who appeared before us.
12	We want to thank again the Judges of the
13	Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit who allowed
14	us to use their courtroom, and we want to especially
15	thank all the employees of our Court and the Court of
16	Appeals who have done such a great job assisting us
17	and preparing for this hearing and conducting it. We
18	have a tremendous debt of gratitude to them.
19	Next I want to acknowledge again the other
20	people who are also very important to this proceeding,
21	and that of course is the families of the other 5,000
22	Vaccine Act claimants who have been diagnosed with
23	autism or similar conditions.
24	Some members of those families have been

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with us in the courtroom at various times. Some have

25

1	been listening in via our telephone conferencing
2	system, and others have followed the hearing by
3	downloading the audio or reading the transcripts on
4	our website.
5	To all the family members who have listened
6	and those who haven't and to the Cedillo family, all
7	three of us pledge to you again that we will consider
8	very, very carefully the evidence that has been put
9	before us, and we will give that evidence our complete
10	and thorough study. We realize the great importance
11	of the task assigned to us in deciding these cases,
12	and we will give our greatest effort in carrying out
13	that responsibility.
14	Finally, now that this hearing is finished,
15	some of you may want to know when will we hear the
16	decision. There are really two answers to that.
17	First, as to the specific case of Michelle
18	Cedillo, as I noted before under the Vaccine Act
19	statute, responsibility for a single case is assigned
20	to a single Special Master, so I myself will consider
21	the specific evidence to the Cedillo case and issue a
22	written ruling in this case.
23	As you heard a few minutes ago, first both
24	parties are going to file written briefs. That
25	process realistically with the huge record we have

1	here, thousands and thousands of pages of evidence and
2	beyond just re-reading the transcript here, obviously
3	that briefing process will take several months. Once
4	the briefing process has concluded I will issue a
5	written ruling as soon as I can thereafter.
6	The second part of the question, of course,
7	deals with the fact that this hearing we've had for
8	the last two and a half weeks is about more than just
9	Michelle Cedillo's case.
10	As I explained on the opening day of the
11	hearing, Michelle's case is just one of an initial
12	group of three test cases to be decided in the Omnibus
13	Autism Proceeding, so during the past three weeks the
14	parties for both sides have presented evidence not
15	just about the particulars of Michelle's case, but
16	also about the general causation theory, the first
17	general causation theory of the Petitioners Steering
18	Committee. That is, the general theory that MMR
19	vaccines and thimerosal-containing vaccines can
20	combine to cause autism.
21	Having heard that general causation
22	testimony during this hearing, my two fellow Special
23	Masters will undertake the process of applying that
24	evidence to the other two initial test cases. They
25	will be conducting evidentiary hearings concerning

1	those	± ₩0	test	cases	this	fall
_	CIIOBC			Cabeb	CIII	татт.

- 2 Those evidentiary hearings will be much more
- 3 limited in scope than this hearing hopefully because,
- 4 as I previously stated, the testimony we heard today
- 5 or over the last two and a half weeks on the general
- 6 causation issue will be also available to be applied
- 7 to those test cases.
- 8 So once those hearings are conducted Special
- 9 Master Campbell-Smith will issue a written ruling in
- 10 the particular test case assigned to her and Special
- 11 Master Vowell will be issuing her written ruling in
- 12 the test case assigned to her.
- For updates concerning this case, the
- 14 Cedillo case and the other two test cases and for the
- 15 general progress of the Omnibus Autism Proceeding and
- 16 the additional general causation theories that are yet
- 17 to come, I would say keep checking the autism
- 18 proceeding page on this Court's internet website.
- 19 That's where we'll continue to post the information
- 20 about it.
- 21 With that I thank everyone again for being
- here. We are now adjourned.
- 23 (Whereupon, at 10:04 a.m., the hearing in
- the above-entitled matter was concluded.)
- 25 //

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NO.: 98-916V

CASE TITLE: Cedillo v. Secretary of HHS

HEARING DATE: June 26, 2007

LOCATION: Washington, D.C.

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately on the tapes and notes reported by me at the hearing in the above case before the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Date: June 26, 2007

Christina Chesley Official Reporter

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