

Source Watch

“According to the *Washington Post*, Tozzi was effectively in charge of OMB in the 1980s when evidence emerged that giving aspirin to children with flu symptoms increased the risk of Reye's syndrome, a potentially fatal complication. A federal health agency recommended legislation to enforce warnings on aspirin containers, but Tozzi took the position that the evidence was not adequate. Almost 200 children died of Reye's disease in the following years before activists could persuade Congress to enforce labelling. {Note: the syndrome is now extremely rare.} [1](See Tozzi response below) “

“Tozzi Responds to Reye charge”

“Tozzi disputes the Post Article on Reye's Syndrome (Source pgs. 305 & 309, *Courting Change*, a book published by the Public Citizen Litigation Group) He maintains:

The Reyes Syndrome Rule (on labelling) was withdrawn from the OMB's review by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), so the assertion that Jim Tozzi rejected the proposed Reyes Syndrome labeling is completely inaccurate. The facts are, as demonstrated in the record, as follows:

1. *Sept 20 1982 The Secretary of HHS sent a proposed labeling regulation to OMB.*
2. *Nov 8 1982 The American Academy of Pediatrics announces "Labeling aspirin-containing preparations as contradicted in the treatment of influenza or chicken pox should be delayed until more conclusive evidence of the association of aspirin administration and Reye's Syndrome is shown by further investigation."*
3. *Nov 18 1982 The Secretary of HHS withdrew the rule from OMB review.*

The record clearly demonstrates that Tozzi did not delay the implementation of the review for years.”

Editor's Note: The inaccurate statement in the *Post* will remain forever; much to the credit of Source Watch, they provided a means to publish a rejoinder; this is about as bloody as it gets.