

**“The Time to Unite Is Now”: The Revival of the Anti-Vaccination Movement with the Autism-Vaccine Debate and Jenny McCarthy’s Co-optation of the Second Wave Feminist Rhetoric of *Our Bodies, Ourselves***

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**Abstract:**

Over the past decade, the United States experienced a revival in the anti-vaccination movement with the development of the autism-vaccine debate. The most notable personality in this autism-vaccination debate is Jenny McCarthy, author of three books pertaining to autism, *Louder Than Words*, *Healing and Preventing Autism*, and *Mother Warriors*. Through her discussion of the challenges faced navigating the diagnosis of her son with autism, she employs a similar combination of rhetoric to the second-wave feminist text, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. Analogous to the purpose of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* in second-wave feminism, this analysis explores how McCarthy effectively redefines the contextual ethos of the autism-vaccination debate, empowers mothers as experts of their child’s health, and unites her audience as a collective motherhood.