

## Tougher Toy Safety Standards Approved by House

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – With more than 25 million toys recalled so far this year, today Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) joined his colleagues in approving a bill to toughen safety standards for children's products sold in the United States – creating the toughest lead standard in the world for children's toys. The bill also strengthens and reforms the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and empowers State attorneys general to ensure that this new law is enforced.

"Parents expect that the toys on store shelves in the United States are safe for their kids, yet the agency in charge of making sure this is true has failed families time and time again. We've got to do a better job of protecting our kids from lead and other hazards, and this bill is a step in the right direction," said Murphy.

Some of the 25 million toys recalled this year contained nearly 200 times the legal amount of lead. As toy imports have soared in recent years, President Bush has allocated less and less funds to ensure that imported toys are safe for American children. Since 2004, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has lost 15 percent of its workforce.

This bill will strengthen the CPSC by creating a new power for it to immediately share information about dangerous products with the public and ensures state public health agencies are kept informed. The bill significantly increases CPSC resources to hire additional staff and for laboratory renovations, including \$20 million to modernize the testing lab. The bill allots \$80 million for Fiscal Year 2009, \$90 million for Fiscal Year 2010 and \$100 million for Fiscal Year 2011, and it increases the cap on civil penalties to \$10 million and authorizes State attorneys general to enforce the law.

Murphy is also a sponsor of H.Res.819, urging the President to ask for the resignation of Nancy Nord, Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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