

Consumer Safety

Congress has a responsibility to keep America's children safe. With headlines revealing lead paint in imported toys and seemingly daily recalls of faulty products, everyone is concerned about the entire toy industry. I am committed to improving and reforming the nation's consumer product safety system with provisions that include increasing funding and staffing for the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), a nationwide ban on products containing lead beyond specified minute amounts, starting third-party testing and certification for children's products, and requiring mandatory tracking labels for children's products.

I am pleased that in Congress, we have made it a priority to protect our children through legislation. We have already passed several bills since the many toy safety scares this year came to light. I look forward to continue working on this issue before the end of the year, and hope to pass comprehensive legislation that addresses our concerns and ensures that our children and parents feel safe with the toys and products they choose.

It is also important that parents and other consumers are vigilant when it comes to the products they choose as well as recalls that may have been issued. To receive periodic emails from the Consumer Product Safety Commission alerting you of recalls and other product hazards [click here](#). If you are concerned about a particular product or if you would like to search for a recall, you can do so by visiting the Consumer Product Safety Commission or by [clicking here](#).

Consumer Product Safety Legislation

On October 9th, the House passed four bills that are designed to improve child safety - better ensuring that the products that children use are completely safe and reliable. I supported or cosponsored all these important pieces of legislation to keep America's children safe. I look forward to continuing my work to keep our citizens safe, and I hope to be able to support additional legislation to empower and fund the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Please check back for updates on future legislation.

The Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act, H.R. 814, protects children from death or serious injury from burn hazards, by requiring the same child-resistant caps for all gasoline containers, whether sold with or without gasoline.

The Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act, protects children from unsafe cribs, high chairs and other durable infant and toddler products by requiring direct consumer notification of recalls of these products.

The Product Safety Civil Penalties Improvement Act, H.R. 2474, provides a better incentive for companies to report safety problems with their products by increasing the maximum civil penalty for violations of the Consumer Product Safety Act.

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, H.R. 1721, protects children from drowning by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers in pools and spas and by creating a swimming pool safety grant program to encourage states to adopt comprehensive safety laws.

Additional information on each of these critical bills:

Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act - H.R. 1699:

This bipartisan bill, which I supported, improves the recall process for cribs, high chairs and other durable infant and toddler products. This bill requires the manufacturers of a defined list of 12 durable infant and toddler products - including cribs, high chairs, strollers, bath seats, play yards, walkers, and swings - to provide postage-paid, privacy-protected recall registration cards with the products to allow consumers to register them by mail.

This bill is named after Danny Keysar, who died when his crib collapsed five years after the crib model was recalled. Danny Keysar, a 16-month-old boy, died in 1998 when he took a nap in a portable crib that collapsed, strangling him. The crib model had been recalled five years earlier for the very defect that led to the collapse, but Danny's parents and his caregiver were unaware of the recall.

Product Safety Civil Penalties Improvement Act - H.R. 2474:

This bipartisan bill, which I supported, improves incentives for companies to report safety problems, by increasing the

maximum fines for violations. This bill provides a better incentive for companies to report safety problems with their products by increasing the maximum civil penalty for violations and will prevent companies from flouting the law.

Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act- H.R. 814:

This bipartisan bill, which I supported, protects children from death or serious injury from burn hazards. This bill protects children from death or serious injury from burn hazards, by requiring the same child-resistant caps for all gasoline containers, whether sold with or without gasoline. Currently, the CPSC isn't empowered to regulate gas cans because these containers aren't sold with gasoline inside. This bill corrects that problem.

Rep. Dennis Moore introduced this bill after a four-year-old boy in Kansas was killed as a result of a gas can. Recently, in Leavenworth, Kansas, a four-year-old boy died and his three-year-old brother was permanently scarred when the children opened and spilled the contents of a gas can, causing the gasoline vapors to be ignited by a nearby hot water heater.

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act - H.R. 1721:

This bipartisan bill, which I cosponsored, includes a number of provisions to reduce the incidence of childhood drownings. This bill, introduced includes three initiatives to improve the safety of children at swimming pools and spas. The first initiative is to require the use of safe drain covers at swimming pools and spas - safe drain covers are those that are designed to prevent the hazard of drain entrapment. The second initiative is to establish a federal program, through incentive grants, to encourage the states to enact laws that require layers of protection in residential swimming pools to reduce the incidence of childhood drowning. The third initiative is to establish a national public education program led by the Consumer Product Safety Commission on pool and spa safety.

Drowning is the second highest cause of accidental deaths among American children, ranking right behind automobile accidents. In 2003, drowning incidents caused 761 childhood deaths; in 2004, over 3,000 children were treated in emergency rooms for near-drowning, often resulting in permanent injury. Approximately 40 percent of childhood drowning deaths take place in pools and spas.