

WPTV: Local congressman talks toy safety

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Reported by Jennifer Rivera

With so many toys recalled before Christmas, many parents are wary about buying toys for their children, especially anything made in China.

But Monday, Congressman Tim Mahoney tried to provide them with tips on toy safety.

In a press conference at the Peter Pan Preschool in Palm Beach Gardens, Mahoney introduced Ann Brown, the former chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Brown says Parents need to be vigilant this Christmas when shopping for their child. Check the commission's website for recalls, buy books or a bike for your child...and if you're wary, look for toys not made in China. She even suggested that every parent should have their child tested for lead. Brown and Mahoney both had harsh words for the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

"This is the time that unfortunately parents are thrown back on their own resources," says Brown, "The agency should be protecting them. It's not. It has one toy tester for the whole country, it has 12 toy inspectors for the whole country. It's ridiculous."

Mahoney says, "I think it's important for the public to know that this Congress and myself, we're going to make sure this situation gets reversed. Kids are way too important."

Mahoney says Congress will be looking at legislation that could increase the power of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. It would also hold the toy industry to a higher standard by imposing fines and other penalties for violations.