



News Release

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS STATEMENT ON SENATE PASSAGE OF S. 2663, THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION REFORM ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which represents 60,000 pediatricians, today praised the U.S. Senate for passing legislation to strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and protect children from unsafe toys and children’s products.

“This legislation is an important step toward giving parents more peace of mind,” said AAP President Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics. “Their children’s favorite toys should be a source of fun, not worry.”

Dr. Jenkins urged the Senate and U.S. House, which passed its version of CPSC reform in December, to quickly iron out their differences and send President Bush the strongest legislation possible.

“In 2007, an appalling number of children’s products had to be recalled for hidden dangers—toxic levels of lead paint, chemicals that could be metabolized into coma-inducing substances, tiny magnets so strong they could puncture a child’s intestines, electronics that burst into flames,” she said. “It’s past time to prevent these kinds of hazards *before* parents bring these products into their homes. We need a vigorous, aggressive agency that has the resources it needs to protect children and families from unsafe products and we need it now.”

The AAP strongly supports provisions in S. 2663 that would:

- Restrict toxic levels of lead in children’s products, including lead in paint, coatings and materials;
- Require mandatory third-party testing of children’s products for a range of hazards, including lead, dangerous magnets, damaging noise levels, and parts that could cause severe cuts or amputations;
- Improve systems needed to rapidly identify unsafe products and remove them from homes and store shelves;
- Significantly boost CPSC funding and staff.

In addition, the AAP urges conferees to include a House provision that applies these new safety regulations to toys and products geared toward children age 12 and under (versus under age 7 in the Senate bill.) “Older children aren’t immune to these dangers,” Jenkins said, adding that toys geared toward children often fall into the hands of their younger siblings.

“The AAP appreciates how hard members from both parties have worked to improve product safety,” Jenkins said. “We look forward to continuing to work with them to protect millions of children from dangerous products.”

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.