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Subject: CPSIA - The Significance of Recent Correspondence by Rep. Schakowsky

On February 12, Representative Jan Schakowsky wrote Kathleen Fasanella to complain about the design of her websites and to attempt shame Kathleen by linking child deaths to the origins of the CPSIA. See http://designer-entrepreneurs.com/blog/illustrations/Letter_to_Kathleen_Fasanella.pdf and <http://www.fashion->

incubator.com/phpbb/viewtopic.php?t=4875. Incredibly, Ms. Schakowsky resorts to emotional manipulation and intimidation in response to the exercise of Kathleen's Constitutionally-guaranteed Freedom of Speech. I believe Freedom of Speech was once considered a sacred right in America. Perhaps the debate over the CPSIA has become too leaden for Ms. Schakowsky.

Ms. Fasanella's answer to Ms. Schakowsky deserves your attention. See <http://www.fashion-incubator.com/archive/my-response-to-representative-schakowsky/>. Please read the 45+ comments as well.

What is notable about this exchange of letters and the associated comments? Of course, the issue is "misinformation". There has been much traffic in accusations of "misinfomration". See <http://energycommerce.house.gov/images/stories/Documents/PDF/Newsroom/nord%20moore%202009%201%2016.pdf> and http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090204/cpsc.pdf (Congressional leaders) and http://www.consumerfed.org/pdfs/CPSC_leadership_release_1-30-09.pdf (consumer groups). In Ms. Schakowsky's letter, she identifies herself as a major source of misinformation - all in the name of defending the noble CPSIA. Hmm. How should we voters feel about this kind of manipulation by an elected leader closely identified with the CPSIA? I believe the public believes it can rely on our Congressional leaders to get it right, but that is apparently a misplaced trust. This is especially irksome since advocates for the CPSIA strenuously sling mud at unnamed opponents for trumpeting "misleading" information. The tactic of attacking the messenger in order to distract from an inconvenient or unwanted message is an old trick. We get it, and the press gets it. When will Congress?

There is a large group of concerned citizens agitated over this law. You can read the comments yourself - how is public opinion running? It may no longer be relevant how lopsidedly this bill passed - the public is getting fed up. Now that the CPSIA's destructive economic impact is finally being felt, public sentiment is running strongly against the new law. The notion that this law changes the safety picture has been exposed as a joke. Nevertheless, Congress persists in repeating its mantra that the law will not be changed and the CPSC simply needs to implement the CPSIA and make things "clear". Hearings on the law have been scheduled - and cancelled - more than once. This is transparency? Is this what we Americans voted for in the Obama "revolution"? I used to think safety was a non-partisan issue. . . .

The longer that Congress arrogantly refuses to acknowledge the public with its legitimate concerns about this dangerous law, the more likely the outrage will turn into a political firestorm. The American public is increasingly disillusioned with the new Congress as the U.S. economy sinks into the abyss. It's time for Congress to acknowledge the serious errors underlying this terrible bill - publicly for the benefit of the American people - and to take serious action. Please do not underestimate those of us advocating against this bill. We will not agree to tweaks (the word "any" in the lead exemptions won't do it) - the bill needs to be reconsidered.

I hope you will act before it's too late. Our small businesses, and your constituents, are waiting. I will be posting this letter to my blog. Please feel free to join the debate there for all to see.

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