

**Consumers Union \* Consumer Federation of America \* Union of  
Concerned Scientists \* Kids in Danger \* U.S. Public Interest Research  
Group \* Public Citizen**

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**Consumer, Scientific and Public Health Groups Support CPSC Efforts to  
Implement New Product Safety Law and Protect Consumers from Unsafe  
Products**

**Groups Urge House Subcommittee to Highlight These Efforts**

Inez Tenenbaum, the new chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, is the invited witness for a hearing, entitled "Consumer Product Safety Commission Oversight: Current Issues and a Vision for the Future," to be held on Thursday, September 10, 2009, by the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee.

As Ms. Tenenbaum prepares to testify before Congress for the first time since her confirmation, our coalition of consumer, scientific and public health groups is encouraged by the significant steps taken over the last year to improve the safety of consumer products, and we now urge the subcommittee to focus on the critical issues that will further advance the agency's mission to safeguard consumer products.

First, it is important to highlight the risks to consumers in the global marketplace before passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA): too many dangerous products were on store shelves, some seriously harming, and even killing, their customers; the CPSC had neither the funds nor the regulatory authority to effectively solve these problems; and there were gaping holes in existing laws that needed to be closed to protect consumers. The CPSIA was passed almost unanimously in Congress to solve the problems plaguing the marketplace.

Second, we look forward to a dialogue about how the CPSIA and CPSC's efforts are restoring consumer confidence in the marketplace. Consumers lost confidence in our product safety net

because of the many recalls of children's products and the numerous deaths and injuries posed by those products. When fully implemented, the CPSIA will restore consumer confidence by improving product safety, by requiring that they be tested for safety before they are sold -- an action that most consumers assumed was already occurring. In addition, the CPSIA turned voluntary standards for toys and other juvenile products into mandatory requirements which will help to ensure that those products meet safety standards.

Finally, we look forward to hearing how the Commission is implementing the new law including the status of the many regulations that the agency is promulgating. We hope the Chair will share her vision for the future of product safety, including details about her effective and much needed core priorities establishing transparency, enforcement and education and advocacy as the agency's primary goals.

We look forward to a productive dialogue about how the CPSC will continue to fulfill its mission and protect consumers from the hazards posed by unsafe products.