

(October 9, 2007) Lipinski Helps Pass Four Bills to Protect Children from Unsafe Products

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[WASHINGTON, D.C.] Today, Congressman Dan Lipinski helped pass four bills in the House of Representatives designed to protect children from unsafe products. Among other things, these bills would mandate increased penalties for violations of consumer protection laws and require future recall notifications to be sent directly to affected consumers.

"This is an important first step that Congress is taking to protect our children from unsafe products," said Rep. Lipinski. "In just the past few months, millions of cribs, strollers, toys, and other products from China and elsewhere have been recalled because they were found to be dangerous. Unfortunately, in some cases these products had already caused serious injuries and even death. This legislation will help prevent future tragedies."

The four bills approved by the House are:

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

- H.R. 1699, 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.

- H.R. 2474, Product Safety Civil Penalties Improvement Act - increases the maximum civil penalty for violations of the Consumer Product Safety Act from \$1.82 million to \$10 million over two years.

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

Later this fall, the House of Representatives is expected to consider further consumer-safety legislation which will include bans on lead in children's products and mandatory third party testing for compliance with safety standards.

"Parents should not have to worry about whether products they bought for their children are safe," said Lipinski. "We must continue to strengthen our consumer protection laws and keep the pressure on this Administration to enforce our laws."