



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

October 19, 2011

**JOINT STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN INEZ M. TENENBAUM, COMMISSIONER
ROBERT S. ADLER AND COMMISSIONER THOMAS H. MOORE ON THE VOTES TO
APPROVE THE FINAL RULE ON THIRD-PARTY TESTING AND CERTIFICATION,
THE FINAL RULE ON COMPONENT PART AND FINISHED PRODUCT TESTING, THE
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING ON "REPRESENTATIVE" TESTING, AND THE
FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON REDUCING THE
COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIRD-PARTY TESTING**

Today was a monumental day for the safety of America's children, and one that parents and grandparents have waited for years to happen. The Commission adopted rules that require independent, third-party testing of toys and other children's products before they reach consumers. For the past three years, the Commission has worked diligently to implement the world's toughest lead limits and crib safety standards, and bulk up our product safety efforts at the nation's ports. Today, we voted on what many consider the capstone of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA). With this vote, we have taken safety "to the source."

In 2008, this nation faced a crisis of confidence in our consumer product safety framework. Behind us was the "year of the recall" in 2007, where recall after recall of what amounted to tens of millions of recalled units of children's products motivated moms, dads, and all types of consumers to demand change. Lawmakers faced two choices: retain the failed children's product safety framework of the past and continue to only catch and recall dangerous children's products after they were already in the hands of millions of toddlers and young children, or create a new safety framework designed to ensure the safety of children's products when they are manufactured and before they get into the hands of children.

Congress made this choice through the passage of the CPSIA. After hearing from millions of shocked and disappointed parents, Congress decided that the old, reactive children's product safety system did not sufficiently protect our nation's children or establish the United States as the global leader in product safety. Thus, Congress decided that a truly effective system of product safety for children was needed, and today the CPSC took one of the most important steps in the process of building that proactive system for ensuring the safety of children's products.

Congress' requirement for independent safety checks is a perfectly reasonable requirement when it comes to children's safety. It is the least our children deserve. It is a safeguard parents expect, and it is why the action we took is the centerpiece of the

CPSIA. The final third-party rules we adopted today will fulfill the promise that Congress made to parents through the passage of CPSIA and the promise that the CPSC made to children when it initiated these third-party testing related rulemakings.

The fact that parents were expecting this promise to be fulfilled by our actions was confirmed by the thousands of parents, grandparents, and everyday consumers who took the time to reach out to all five Commissioners during the past week and who urged us to vote yes and support these rules. We believe that such an unprecedented outpouring deserves some recognition, especially considering the fact that we have received more than ten-thousand (and still counting) letters from consumers in all 50 states. This unprecedented flood of letters from consumers asking us to support the third party testing rules has occurred over just the past seven days.

Congress repudiated the philosophy of waiting until children are injured before considering action - despite the calls from some to return to the old reactive system. The bottom-line is that the 'wait-and-see' approach failed. And the consequences were tragic, devastating and permanent. Just ask those parents who have had to live through the unimaginable.

Enough is enough. Through our actions, we have honored the memories of those precious children who have been lost, such as Savannah Pereira, Danny Keysar, Tyler Witte, Jarnell Brown, and, unfortunately, countless other children. With them all in mind, we are proud to say that this is a great day for the safety of children. Today, we took a giant step in transforming the children's product safety framework in this country from the reactive system that tens of millions of consumers still remember from the shocking "year of the recall" in 2007 into a new, proactive framework that Congress directed this agency to create and that the parents, grandparents, and children of this country expect and deserve.