



UNITED STATES  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY  
BETHESDA, MD 20814

STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER RICH TRUMKA JR.

## HOBBY LOBBY COMMITS TO WATER BEAD SAFETY; MACY'S STILL SELLING WATER BEADS FOR CHILDREN, NOW AT A *STEEP* DISCOUNT

January 22, 2024

After receiving my letter,<sup>1</sup> Hobby Lobby confirmed on January 8<sup>th</sup> that it would stop selling water beads to children. It joined the ranks of Target, Amazon, Walmart, Kohl's, Shein, Jo-Ann's, and other retailers that have committed to keeping kids safe from these products.<sup>2</sup>

Today, I call on Macy's to make the same commitment to safety. Weeks after its competitors stopped selling water beads,<sup>3</sup> not only is Macy's *still* selling them, but it's conducting a fire sale, listing them for 50% off. That action makes these products even more accessible to families who may be unaware of the hazards water beads pose.

I have sent a letter to Macy's urging it to join the growing list of retailers pulling these hazardous products from their shelves. And rather than selling through its current stock, I urge Macy's to follow Kohl's example by destroying the product it has on-hand.

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Trumka Calls on Jo-Ann Stores, Kohl's, Michaels, Ebay, Hobby Lobby, Wish, and Shein to Stop Selling Water Beads, *Trumka Statements, Consumer Product Safety Commission* (Dec. 20, 2023) (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/About-CPSC/Commissioner/Richard-Trumka/Statement/Commissioner-Trumka-Calls-on-Jo-Ann-Stores-Kohl%E2%80%99s-Michaels-Ebay-Hobby-Lobby-Wish-and-Shein-to-Stop-Selling-Water-Beads>).

<sup>2</sup> Commissioner Trumka Receives Commitments that Jo-Ann's, Kohl's, and Shein Will Stop Selling Water Beads; Hobby Lobby and Wish Fail to Make Similar Commitments to Safety, *Trumka Statements, Consumer Product Safety Commission* (Jan. 2, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/About-CPSC/Commissioner/Richard-Trumka/Statement/Commissioner-Trumka-Receives-Commitments-that-Jo-Anns-Kohls-and-Shein-Will-Stop-Selling-Water-Beads-Hobby-Lobby-and-Wish-Fail-to-Make-Similar-Commitments-to-Safety>).

<sup>3</sup> Lauren Kirchner, "Amazon, Target, and Walmart Announce They Will Stop Selling Water Beads Marketed for Children," *Consumer Reports* (Dec. 12, 2023)(available at: <https://www.consumerreports.org/babies-kids/toys/amazon-to-stop-selling-water-bead-toys-a2333261526/>).