

Government Relations Today

In This Issue

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Take Action—Make An Impact: Support Product Testing Relief

H.R. 1939, the Enhancing CPSC Authority and Discretion Act of 2011 (ECADA) may provide the promotional products industry with relief from and clarification of some of the more problematic provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA).

The House Energy and Commerce Committee has begun the process to approve the bill for consideration by the full House. This is known as a “mark-up” of the bill.

The Democrats on the Committee are opposed to this bill. Our first priority is for these members of Congress to hear from constituents immediately. However, it would not hurt if you contacted your member of Congress and urged him or her to encourage their colleagues on the Committee to approve the bill.

Take Action

- If your MOC is listed below, contact him or her [via e-mail](#) and [phone](#) today.
- If your MOC is not on the list, but identifies as a Democrat, contact him or her [via e-mail](#) and [phone](#) today.
- If your MOC identifies as a Republican, contact him or her [via e-mail](#) and [phone](#) today.

Don't know who's your member of Congress? [Enter your zip code here](#) and find out.

House Committee On Energy And Commerce Democrats:

[Mike Ross \(AR\)](#)

[Lois Capps \(CA\)](#)

[Anna G. Eshoo \(CA\)](#)

[Doris G. Matsui \(CA\)](#)

[Henry A. Waxman \(CA\)](#)

[Diana DeGette \(CO\)](#)

[John Barrow \(GA\)](#)

[Bobby L. Rush \(IL\)](#)

[Jan Schakowsky \(IL\)](#)

[Edward Markey \(MA\)](#)

[John Dingell \(MI\)](#)

[G.K. Butterfield \(NC\)](#)

[Frank Pallone, Jr. \(NJ\)](#)

[Eliot L. Engel \(NY\)](#)

[Edolphus Towns \(NY\)](#)

[Michael F. Doyle \(PA\)](#)

[Charles Gonzalez \(TX\)](#)

[Gene Green \(TX\)](#)

[Jim Matheson \(UT\)](#)

[Donna Christensen \(VI\)](#)

[Jay Inslee \(WA\)](#)

[Tammy Baldwin \(WI\)](#)

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Make An Impact

If passed, H.R. 1939 would:

- Revise the 0.01 percent lead content requirement so that it would apply to products that are intended primarily for use by children age six and under and that can be mouthed

- Postpone the step-down to 0.01 percent lead for one year until August 2012 and make the application of the 0.01 percent prospective, permitting sell-through of existing, legally compliant inventory
- Change the mandatory third-party testing requirements for some children's products to provide flexibility
- Allow the CPSC to consider alternative methods for small-quantity production
- Change the definition of a children's product from "intended primarily for children" to "primarily intended for use by children"
- Overhaul the consumer product safety database by clarifying eligibility to submit reports of harm to the database; limiting it to the person who suffered harm or risk of harm, family members, next of kin, lawyers or other expressly authorized representatives to submit reports; and establishing a process for improving product descriptions in the reports of harm

Your member of Congress needs to hear of your support for H.R. 1939—take action today.

Advocacy At Home: Set Up Your August Recess Meetings

Both houses of the U.S. Congress go on recess August 8 of this year. Members of Congress (MOC) spend this time in their districts connecting with constituents and learning about issues important to voters.

This is a perfect opportunity for you to build relationships with your MOCs, and to communicate the value of promotional products and the strength of the industry in your state.

To set up a meeting, follow these simple steps:

1. Use [PPAI's legislative software](#) to find out who represents you in Congress.
2. Go to your MOCs' websites, learn more about their schedules and find the contact information for their district offices.
3. Edit and send [this e-mail meeting request](#) and contact your MOCs' staffs as soon as possible.

If you would like more guidance on setting up a meeting, contact Anne Lardner-Stone at AnneL@ppai.org or Eme Alberico at EmeA@ppai.org.

Product Responsibility Critical Updates

Click on the linked text below to read more.

- The [Button Cell Battery Safety Act of 2011](#) would make it more difficult for children to get their hands on button cell batteries found in a number of consumer products.
- The [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) classified formaldehyde, a chemical used in the production of a number of household products, as a carcinogen in its 12th Report on Carcinogens.

- The [European Committee For Standardization \(CEN\)](#) has updated its toy safety standards. The revisions address requirements and methods used in the testing of children's toys' mechanical and physical attributes.
- PPAI opens registration for the inaugural [Product Safety Summit](#). Mary Toro, director of Regulatory Enforcement Division at the Office of Compliance and Field Operations with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), will discuss regulatory elements of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), industry challenges and potential resolutions.

Learn more about product responsibility with [PPAI education, resource tools and product guides](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at EmeA@ppai.org or call 972-570-3282.