



Consumer Federation of America

For Immediate Release

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Thursday, December 2, 2010

**CFA's Rachel Weintraub to Testify on CPSC and Product Safety in
the Holiday Season before Senate Subcommittee**

(Washington DC) On Thursday, December 2, 2010, Rachel Weintraub, Director of Product Safety and Senior Counsel with the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) will testify on the progress the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has made in making products safer, as well as the challenges faced by the agency. Weintraub urges the Subcommittee to reject efforts by industry groups to allow more lead in children's products.

The Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, headed by Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR), will hold a hearing at 10:00AM EST on Thursday, December 2, 2010 to address ***Product Safety in the Holiday Season***, as part of their oversight responsibilities of the CPSC.

Ms. Weintraub is testifying on behalf of CFA, as well as Consumers Union, Kids In Danger and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. She joins representatives from industry and the medical community, following a panel of the CPSC Chairman, Inez Tenenbaum and Commissioner Anne Northup.

CFA has followed the work of CPSC closely, submitting comments and appearing at hearings and workshops on almost every aspect of the CPSIA implementation.

“Whenever we make a purchase for our family and friends, most people assume that the product they are considering is safe.,” stated Weintraub. “While consumers do need to think about how the child interacts with the product, if there are other children in the house who may play with the product, or whether the product has been previously recalled, there are some issues that no amount of thought or planning can detect. It is the realm of hidden hazards that the CPSIA and CPSC have sought to detect and prevent,” she continued.

Rachel Weintraub outlines successes that CPSC has had since implementing the CPSIA. These successes include a strong mandatory crib standard, a comprehensive consumer incident database, online toy warnings, product registration, and mandatory toy standards. Ms. Weintraub also discussed the challenges facing the agency involving implementation of the CPSIA and concerns raised by stakeholders as well as the problem of cadmium in children’s products.

Ms. Weintraub also rejects efforts to “open a series of gaping loopholes in the CPSIA that would allow more lead into a host children’s products,” that have been proposed by various stakeholders. “Allowing more lead in children’s products and carving out products from the scope of the CPSIA is not what children are asking for this holiday season.”

The hearing will be webcast at <http://commerce.senate.gov/public/> and copies of Ms. Weintraub’s testimony will be available at the hearing and on www.consumerfed.org.

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CFA is an association of nearly 300 nonprofit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy and education.