

***Consumers Union * Consumer Federation of America *
* Kids in Danger * National Research Center for Women & Families *
* Union of Concerned Scientists *
* U.S. Public Interest Research Group * Public Citizen ***

March 4, 2008

Dear Senator:

We strongly urge you to oppose the DeMint Amendment 4095 to S. 2663, the Consumer Product Safety Reform Act. This amendment is **to be voted on at 5:30 p.m. today**. The Senate bill is a carefully crafted bipartisan compromise that significantly strengthens our broken product safety net. The Senate reforms should not be summarily dismissed.

A vote in support of the DeMint amendment would deprive the public of critical safety reforms, including a publicly accessible product safety database, specific toy safety protections, limited powers for state attorneys general to enforce the federal CPSC law, and protections for workers who blow the whistle on product safety violations. A vote in support of the DeMint amendment would also significantly lower the amount of funds authorized to the CPSC.

We urge the Senate to allow the Congressional process to move forward and approve the S. 2663 without significant changes. A conferenced final bill should reflect the best thinking of both House and Senate. Please do not shortchange the legislative process or product safety improvements for the American public.

S. 2663 is a bi-partisan measure that will help improve our current product safety system. Favorable and prompt Senate action on this measure is urgently needed to restore consumers' faith in the safety of the products they bring into their homes and expose to their families.

This is our golden opportunity to put the safety of our children first and to strengthen the Federal Agency who has the responsibility and the authority to protect our children and our families. We strongly urge you to vote against this amendment.

Sincerely,

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