

***Consumers Union * Consumer Federation of America *
* Kids in Danger * Public Citizen * Union of Concerned
Scientists * U.S. Public Interest Research Group ***

March 5, 2008

Dear Senators Cardin and Obama:

Our groups are writing to express our support for your amendment to S. 2663, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Reform Act which seeks to improve the recall process and increase response rates for recalls by ensuring that thorough information is consistently included in all recall notices.

Too often, public recall notices do not provide enough information about unsafe products. Recall notices sometimes lack basic information about where a product was sold, what country it was manufactured in, or the names of all the retailers that may have sold the item. In addition, these notices may not clearly explain enough about either the hazard posed by the product or how a consumer can obtain a refund or return the product for a refund.

Based upon the confusing and inadequate information in recall notices, it is not surprising that recalls generally have very low response rates. For example, 1 million Simplicity cribs were recalled in 2007 for faulty drop rails. The CPSC announced that consumers could obtain a repair kit to fix the problem on their cribs at home. However, only approximately 45,000 consumers – out of the 1 million who bought the dangerous recalled cribs – responded. This amendment would make recall notices much clearer, so that more consumers will be able to take advantage of a recall remedy.

We enthusiastically support this amendment and believe that a more uniform and substantive recall notice will serve to better inform the public about the hazards posed by recalled products and will give them the information they need to identify and remove these products from their homes.

We thank you for your commitment to product safety and look forward to working with you to pass S. 2663.

Sincerely,

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