

Washington, DC -- In response to the recent wave of lead contaminated toy recalls, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that he is cosponsoring legislation to strengthen and improve the Consumer Product Safety Commission, increase lead testing, and expand criminal penalties for producers.

“National recalls of Chinese-made, lead-contaminated toys were a wake-up call that we must toughen consumer protection laws and remain diligent against threats to the safety and health of our children,” **said Arcuri**. “With the holiday season around the corner, parents shouldn’t have to worry about purchasing dangerous products at the supermarket or the mall. I’m pleased to join my colleagues to take action now to ensure products on the market are safe for our children and families.”

In recent weeks, consumers have been shocked by recalls of toys and consumer products, many due to lead contamination. The Safety Assurance for Every (SAFER) Consumer Protection Act (H.R 3691) would strengthen and improve the Consumer Protection Product Safety Act to ensure products, especially children’s toys, are completely safe and reliable.

This comprehensive bill would increase resources for the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and make third-party testing of toys and children’s products for compliance with safety standards mandatory. Currently, the CPSC is severely understaffed – having lost, and failed to replace, 15 percent of its workforce since 2004. Additionally, CPSC presently only employs one full-time toy tester.

### **The SAFER Act would:**

- Require children’s products undergo independent third-part testing
- Expand civil and criminal penalties
- Ban lead in children’s products
- Enhance CPSC recall and inspection authority
- Expedite recall disclosure to the public
- Ask the President to fill Commission vacancies
- Provide additional resources to the CPSC

Earlier this month Arcuri also supported, and the House unanimously approved, four bills to protect children from unsafe products, including:

- The Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act, which requires consumers to be notified directly when unsafe cribs, high chairs and other durable infant and toddler products are recalled.
- The Product Safety Civil Penalties Improvement Act which encourages companies to report safety problems with their products.

This summer, Arcuri voted for and the House passed legislation (H.R. 3074), which includes \$130 million, \$14 million more than the President's request, for the Lead Hazard Reduction Program to increase funding for grant programs to help cities with lead remediation programs.

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 21st to 27th.

###