

Who is behind efforts to weaken or delay the *Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act*?

For months, discontent with the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) has been represented as coming from small entrepreneurs and micro-businesses making safe organic products in their homes or small businesses.

But finally, with the announcement of a “Rally to Amend CPSIA,” the driving forces behind this push have become clear – the same big business lobbyists and manufacturers that opposed any attempts to strengthen product safety when the CPSIA was first being considered. ***Together the groups behind the rally reported spending more than \$16 million lobbying Congress in 2007 and 2008.***

Two of the groups – Fashion Jewelry Trade Association and National Bulk Vendors Association – represent the makers of most of the lead-tainted jewelry dumped in this country over the past decade. Others represent companies that flooded our toy stores with lead-tainted toys in 2007 or that sold dangerous cribs involved in numerous deaths. Almost all opposed many of the new safety protections in the CPSIA when it was being considered by Congress at some point, but did not prevail, and many of the largest groups eventually supported the law when it passed. ***Importantly, the makers of almost every children’s product recalled or involved in a death in the past decade is a member of one of these groups now seeking to amend or “fix” the CPSIA.***

Further, CPSC **already** has the ability, through the existing language of the CPSIA, to address concerns raised about implementation of the law’s new lead and phthalates safety limits as they affect these small entrepreneurs, micro-businesses, or libraries. Rather than focus on the proper solution – pushing CPSC Acting Chair Nancy Nord to take common-sense actions to implement the law – this coalition is seeking to weaken a law – and necessary government regulation of their industries - that they never liked in the first place.

The organizations and associations below have joined together to raise concerns about the CPSIA, request hearings on “problems” with the CPSIA, and have called for amending the CPSIA legislatively. The entities marked with an asterisk make up the \$16 million lobbying expense figure; others reported no lobby expenses and lobbying expenses for those entities were not reported in any other lobbying report identified.

Alliance for Children’s Product Safety – *This is a newly formed organization, represented by lobbyists already representing the other groups here.*

***American Apparel and Footwear Association** – *Member organization Reebok was responsible for lead charm that killed a Minnesota boy.*

American Motorcycle Association

American Specialty Toy Retailing Association

Aquatic Sports Suppliers Association

***The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc**

***Consumer Specialty Products Association**

***Fashion Jewelry Trade Association** -- *Members are the source of the millions of children’s jewelry items recalled for lead and have opposed stricter lead limits nationally.*

Goodwill Industries International, Inc

Handmade Toy Alliance – *This is a newly formed organization*

International Art Materials Trade Association

International Sleep Products Association

***Motorcycle Industry Council**

***Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association--** *One of their certified cribs was found recently to be tainted with lead paint and sickened a child – even though lead paint has been illegal for 30 years.*

***National Association of Manufacturers--** *Former lobbyist Michael Baroody was nominated by President Bush for CPSC Chairman, but had to withdraw his name*

National Association of Resale and Thrift Shops

***National Bulk Vendors Association** – *Their members brought us the 150 million lead-tainted trinkets recalled in 2004, along with 7 other recalls totaling 8 million rings, bracelets and necklaces – including products causing acute lead poisoning to 2 children requiring immediate medical treatment.*

National School Supply & Equipment Association – *In the past 2 years, one school supply company has*

had five recalls for selling products coated with lead paint.

Specialty Vehicle Institute of America

***Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association**

***Toy Industry Association** – *Most manufacturers of the flood of toys with lead paint or hazardous magnets recalled in 2007 and beyond are members.*

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