

## Rothman Introduces "Halloween Safety Act Of 2004" To Extend Daylight Saving Time One Week

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To Extend Daylight Saving Time One Week  
Thanks Bergen County Freeholders Huttle & Ganz For Idea  
To Provide Children With An Extra Hour Of Daylight To 'Trick-or-Treat'

Washington, DC - In an effort to make Halloween safer for children, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to extend the date on which daylight saving time ends each year by one week. Rothman credits Valerie Vainieri Huttle, the Chairwoman of the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and David Ganz, who is both a Bergen County Freeholder and the Mayor of Fair Lawn, New Jersey with developing the idea for the "Halloween Safety Act of 2004."

"Since Halloween typically falls a few days after we turn the clocks back, many young children go out to trick-or-treat around their neighborhoods or towns when darkness has already fallen by five or six o'clock in the evening," said Rothman, the father of two schoolchildren. "Parents are faced with the decision of whether or not to allow their children to go trick-or-treating in the dark, which poses a safety hazard for children running from house to house, and for motorists who must watch out for children darting into the streets."

Rothman's "Halloween Safety Act of 2004" extends daylight saving time each year until the first Sunday in November, instead of the last Sunday in October, thereby ensuring that Halloween falls during daylight saving time each year.

"An extra hour of daylight on Halloween is not too much to ask to ensure children's safety. Children should be our number one priority," Freeholder Chair Huttle said.

Freeholder and Mayor David Ganz added, "Passing this legislation will be a victory for children and parents who will be able to enjoy Halloween safely during daylight hours."

The concern for safety on Halloween has already been partly addressed in Bergen County, New Jersey. Fair Lawn's beloved police officer, the late Mary Ann Collura, implemented a special "glow stick" program so that young children would be adequately lit and visible as they walk the streets trick-or-treating. Since her untimely death in the line of duty last April, the glow stick program has gone county-wide in Bergen County, thanks to the initiative of Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney, Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

"By modestly changing the date that daylight saving time ends and that standard time begins, children in New Jersey and across the country would be safer and would have extended hours of daylight for trick-or-treating," Rothman said. "People are probably not thinking much about Halloween during this time of year, but it is important that we introduce this legislation now so that we can start the process of making Halloween safer."

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