

Rothman Helps Unveil Toy Safety Report For Holiday Season

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Works With Consumer Group NJPIRG To Alert Parents To Hidden Toy Hazards

Newark, NJ - With the holiday shopping season set to officially kick off this week, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today helped unveil the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group's (NJPIRG) 18th Annual Trouble In Toyland report, which alerts consumers to toys which are potential hazards to children. Joined by doctors at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Rothman called on all adults to make sure that they familiarize themselves with toys to make sure they are safe before giving them to children as gifts.

"No parent or loved one should ever have to suffer through the injury or loss of a child due to an unsafe toy. It is so important that parents make it a point to know whether a toy they are considering buying could pose a danger to their child," Rothman said of the NJPIRG report. "Parents and loved ones must pay attention to the toys they buy for their children to keep those young ones safe this holiday season and throughout the year."

NJPIRG research focused on four categories of toy dangers: toys that pose choking hazards, toys that are dangerously loud, toys that pose strangulation hazards or could form dangerous projectiles, and toys that contain toxic chemicals. More than 212,000 people sought treatment in hospital emergency rooms in 2002 for toy-related injuries, of which more than a third were under five years old. Thirteen children died from toy related injuries in 2002.

The annual NJPIRG Trouble in Toyland report, available at www.toysafety.net, offers safety guidelines for purchasing toys for small children and provides examples of toys currently on store shelves that pose potential safety hazards. NJPIRG is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest organization dedicated to environmental protection, consumer rights, and good government.

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