

## **A LAST MINUTE APPEAL TO THE HONOURABLE SENATORS**

Dear Senators,

Concerned groups from across the country strongly urge you to reject the amendments proposed by the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology on Bill C-6, The Canada Consumer Product Safety Act.

There are more than 18,000 annual emergency room visits for children as a result of product-related injuries.

For over the last 10 years, the proportion of consumer product-related injuries seen in emergency departments has been approximately 46% for Canadians 19 years old and younger.

In order to protect the health and safety of Canadian citizens Bill C-6 should be passed in its original form, without amendments, which was unanimously passed by the House of Commons. The passage of Bill C-6 as it stands before you today, with 22 proposed amendments, would weaken the government's ability to act in a timely and responsible manner in order to protect Canadians from unreasonable and avoidable harm.

The amendments to Bill C-6 adopted by the committee The amendments to Bill C-6 adopted by the committee pose several major problems:

- they would prevent Health Canada from acting quickly and enforcing mandatory recalls of unsafe products from the market that have been deemed dangerous to Canadians;
- they would limit the ability of Health Canada safety experts to inspect offices, and
- they would constrain health and safety inspectors from acting to prevent harm.

Should these proposed amendments be adopted, Canadians risk being left without the protections that are afforded to the citizens of other countries and Canada's major trading partners, including the United States, the European Union and Australia.

Option consommateurs, Safe Kids Canada and health, environment and consumer partners continue to express deep concern over toxic substances and the unsafe construction of toys.

For example, the recent North American recall of Stork Craft cribs demonstrated that the Canadian government's authority is currently limited, in that to protect its own citizens it must rely on the goodwill of foreign governments to fulfill this obligation.

Recalls on child products has significantly increased over the years from 28 voluntary recalls in 2006 to 118 in 2008, this constitutes a 235 percent increase over 3 years.

Currently, preventable injuries constitute a direct significant drain on the resources of our overburdened health care system, and an indirect burden as a result of time lost in school and work.

**We want our children to be safe this holiday season and in the future.**

As the Holiday shopping season continues, we ask that you make the safety and welfare of Canadians a top priority.

We urge the Senate to vote against the committee's amendments and to adopt the **original bill without amendments** that came to you from the House of Commons.

Yours Sincerely,

**Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research**  
**Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention**  
**Canadian Institute of Child Health**  
**Child Safety Link**  
**Eco-justice**  
**Environmental Defence**  
**Option consommateurs**  
**Safe Kids Canada**  
**Saskatchewan Prevention Institute**  
**SMARTRISK**