

## Eshoo Strengthens Consumer Safety

December 19, 2007

Eshoo Strengthens Consumer Safety

December 19, 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. &ndash; Congresswoman Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) voted today to pass H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act. The bill passed the House 407 to 0 and is a significant step forward in protecting American consumers from dangerous products in the marketplace.

&ldquo;This has been called the &lsquo;Year of the Recall&rsquo; because the Consumer Product Safety Commission has failed to keep harmful and sometimes lethal products off the market. Lax enforcement and a failure of leadership at the CPSC have let dangerous products reach the shelves of our nation&rsquo;s stores and the homes of American families. This is unacceptable&rdquo; said Eshoo.

The bill enhances consumer protection by requiring mandatory safety standards for nursery products, third-party testing for children&rsquo;s products, prohibiting the sale and export of recalled goods, improves public notice of recalls, banning industry-funded travel for the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and increasing CPSC funding to hire more staff and improve testing facilities.

H.R. 4040 was voted out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on December 18th and included an important Eshoo amendment to provide the CSPC mandatory recall authority to keep the most harmful products away from consumers.

&ldquo;As our chief regulatory agency for product safety, the CPSC needs the muscle to protect consumers from the most egregious violations in a timely and effective way. The CPSC is often the only entity standing between consumers&hellip; kids, the elderly and others&hellip; and dangerous products that can harm or even kill them. The Commission should have every tool at its disposal to protect the public from imminent harm from consumer products,&rdquo; said Eshoo.

H.R. 4040 also sets new lead standards for children&rsquo;s products, eventually lowering the acceptable level of lead in these products to 100 parts per million within four years. Representative Eshoo offered an amendment in Committee to set a stricter standard of 40 parts per million, in line with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, but the amendment was rejected by a vote of 18-26.

"H.R. 4040 responds to an epidemic of substandard and dangerous toys on American store shelves and in homes across the country," said Eshoo. "I'm pleased the House acted today to protect consumers — especially children — and I look forward to getting a strong consumer protection bill signed into law."

###