

**Home Safety Council
Children's Injury Hearing
May 1, 2008**

Two-Minute Statement

Chairman Kennedy, Ranking Member Enzi, and members of the Committee, I very much appreciate the opportunity to share my comments on keeping children safe by preventing childhood injuries. I am Meri-K Appy, president of the Home Safety Council.

Good morning and congratulations to SAFE KIDS for their 20 years of service to the safety of our nation's children.

The Home Safety Council's mission is to prevent accidents in and around the home. This is a serious problem, resulting in nearly 20,000 deaths and 21 million medical visits on average each year in America. Far too many of these tragic events involve children, and most can be prevented.

Our dream is to help kids learn injury prevention lessons early in life so they can grow into a future generation of safer adults and caregivers. We make safety fun, hands-on, and high-impact. For example:

Our **Great Safety Adventure (GSA)** is an incredible "safety field trip on wheels." Two 1,000-square foot traveling exhibits visit schools and community events across America. More than 1 million kids and family members have toured GSA since the tour began in 1999, with proven success.

HSC's "**Safety Ranger**" classroom programs, developed through a partnership with Weekly Reader, have reached more than **75 million teachers, students, and family members** with documented results. We engage teachers, local safety partners, and parents to help children develop positive safety habits that will last a lifetime.

CodeRedRover.org, the Home Safety Council's website for children, is an interactive, educational site offering games, activities, home safety checklists, and tips for children and the adults who care for them. The site was recognized by USA Today as an "Education Best Bet" award winner.

The Home Safety Council loves teaching children about safety. But it's really the responsibility of adults to create a safe environment for our kids. HSC learned something that frankly shocked us: **more than 93 million adults in America read at or below basic levels.**

So HSC and our partner, ProLiteracy Worldwide, launched the Home Safety Literacy Project. This program teams local literacy tutors and teachers with firefighters and emergency managers who use our specially-designed educational materials to teach basic safety lessons and even install free smoke alarms.

These are just a few of the programs of the Home Safety Council we've implemented to help prevent injuries to our children.

Thank you for inviting me to be here today. On behalf of the Home Safety Council, here's to another 20 years of progress for SAFE KIDS and all of us in the injury prevention world.