



Rep. Klein Stands with South Florida Consumers

House passes separate bills on toy safety, tobacco regulation

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) today strongly supported two separate bills critical to consumer safety in South Florida and nationwide. The first piece of legislation, the final House-Senate compromise on the Product Safety Modernization Act (H.R. 4040), bans dangerous chemicals in the manufacture of children's toys to keep them safe. The second piece of legislation, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (H.R. 1108) grants the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate tobacco products and restrict tobacco marketing.

Both bills passed the U.S. House with bipartisan majorities.

“Whether the threat is from chemical-laced toys or cigarette smoke, our first responsibility as parents is to keep our kids safe,” Klein said. “In two separate votes today, the U.S. House showed that we will not allow our children to be exposed to toxic chemicals by unscrupulous toy manufacturers or cigarette company marketers. The rash of product recalls in the last year proved that we must be vigilant when it comes to consumer safety. Thanks to today's legislation, parents in South Florida and across the country can rest a little easier.”

In a major victory for parents and consumers, the Product Safety Modernization Act (H.R. 4040) essentially eliminates lead from toys and children's products and permanently prohibits the sale of children's toys or child care articles that contain more than 0.1 percent of phthalates, a chemical found to cause abnormalities in children. The bill also contains protections for employees who blow the whistle on dangerous toys and requires independent testing of certain children's products to ensure their safety.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (H.R. 1108) authorizes new regulatory steps to restrict tobacco marketing and sales to children under 18. The bill also codifies a 1996 rule restricting where and to whom tobacco products are advertised and bans fruit or candy-flavored cigarettes, which are more likely to appeal to children.

The statistics on youth smoking are striking, and demand the kind of action taken in today's bill. Every day, approximately 4,000 youth try a cigarette for the first time, and another 1,000 will become new, regular daily smokers. One-third of these youth will eventually die prematurely as a result.

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