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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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July 27, 2007

Senator George Runner
Vice Chair, Senate Committee
on Environmental Quality
State Capitol, Room 5097
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Runner:

Thank you for your letter regarding phthalates in children's toys and childcare articles. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) technical and scientific staff* has done a thorough evaluation of the presence and toxicity of potentially "hazardous chemicals in PVC" used in children's toys. In addition, a Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel (CHAP), made up of independent scientists recommended by the National Academy of Sciences working in conjunction with CPSC staff, evaluated the chemical diisononyl phthalate (DINP).

Commission staff subsequently conducted a study of children to determine what kinds of objects they mouth and the amount of time the objects are actually in their mouths. Also, toys were tested to determine how much phthalate migrated out of the toy that could potentially be ingested by a child. The Commission staff utilized information from these studies to complete a risk assessment and concurred with the CHAP that "...exposure to DINP from DINP-containing toys would be expected to pose a minimal to non-existent risk of injury for the majority of children." Based on the results of this risk assessment, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission denied a petition requesting a ban of the use of PVC in products intended for children five years and under.

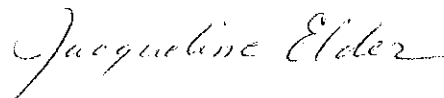
*The comments in this letter are those of CPSC staff, have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.

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The staff briefing package regarding this petition can be obtained on the CPSC website at <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia02/brief/briefing.html>. The briefing package is dated September 18, 2002, and is entitled *Petition Requesting a Ban of Use of PVC in Products Intended for Children Five Years of Age and Under (HP 99-1)*. It appears on the website as seven distinct pieces.

It is also important to note that the CPSC staff has kept abreast of the new research and has not seen anything that would cause a change in the staff's position on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline Elder". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jacqueline Elder