

**November 16, 2006**

**SCHAKOWSKY RENEWS CALL FOR CPSC TO BAN YO-YO BALLS**

**SAYS CHILD SAFETY DEMANDS ACTION, NOT JUST ANOTHER STUDY**

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) sent a letter to Nancy Nord, the Chairwoman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), to again request that the CPSC act to remove yo-yo balls from toy store shelves. Numerous incidents threatening the lives and safety of children and toddlers have occurred over the last several years. Schakowsky, the top Democrat on the Consumer Protection Subcommittee in the House of Representatives, has for years spoken out on the risk yo-yo balls pose to the nation's children.

"I believe it is time for the CPSC to issue a national ban on the yo-yo ball," Schakowsky said.

The text of Schakowsky's letter, dated November 15, 2006, follows:

Dear Chairwoman Nord:

I am writing to follow up on my previous letters to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding the safety of the children's toy known as a yo-yo ball and to inquire about what steps the CPSC plans to take to help prevent additional children from suffering injuries due to its use. I appreciate that CPSC has recently announced that it will reopen its 2003 investigation into the risk this toy poses to children. However, it is time for action, not further study. The yo-yo ball has seriously injured over 409 children in the United States. The latest incident was in mid-October 2006, when Brayden Daher, a 5-year-old boy from Bellevue, Washington, was nearly strangled when a yo-yo ball wrapped around his neck. I believe it is

time for the CPSC to issue a national ban of the yo-yo ball.

I continue to be disturbed by reports of the injuries that have been inflicted by yo-yo balls. Some children have lost consciousness due to strangulation. Others have suffered from concussions and skull fractures. A number have sustained permanent eye injuries. I believe that it is important to get yo-yo water balls out of stores and homes before a child dies. As you may know, my home state of Illinois has issued a statewide ban of the toy that took effect January 1, 2006. Yo-yo balls are banned in Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Australia and Brazil.

I would like to know the timeline that the CPSC has set for the conclusion of its investigation and when we can have a report of its decision. It is my hope that the CPSC will finally recognize the threat of the yo-yo ball and issue a national ban before a child needlessly dies from playing with one. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you further to ensure that no additional children in this country will suffer injuries from playing with yo-yo balls.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jan Schakowsky

Ranking Member

Energy and Commerce Committee

Protection

Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer