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Safety Chief: Monitoring Toys is a 'Struggle'

By Jim Tankersley

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WASHINGTON —The head of the Consumer Product Safety Commission sidestepped a barrage of con

Nancy Nord, acting chairwoman of the CPSC, said the agency faces a "struggle" under current staffing l

"This new and emerging challenge [of toy magnets] is being met aggressively by the CPSC," she told th

A Tribune investigation found the CPSC for years knew that magnets could cause dire intestinal injuries

The agency finally acted in March 2006, with a recall of Magnetix that was so confusing that consumers

Nord declined to respond to a reporter's questions after her testimony.

Republicans and Democrats lamented the CSPC's Magnetix response and they pledged more staff and

Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Ill.), the subcommittee chairman, called the Tribune articles about Magnetix and Ken

"This child's death is tragic," he said. "What is even more infuriating is the possibility that Kenny's death

Several subcommittee members noted that the agency's staffing had fallen from about 1,000 employees

"This is an agency, my colleagues, that has been underfunded," said Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla.).

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), the committee's vice chairman, touted two bills she has proposed to requi

"Our children end up being the guinea pigs in potentially deadly experiments every time we bring new pr