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***For Immediate Release***

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## **Toxic Toy Bill Takes Effect Today:**

*Senator Bob Duff, D Norwalk, Receives Legislative Champion Award from the Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut*

*Norwalk, CT--* During its annual meeting and celebration Sept. 25, the Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut (CSHC) presented Senator Duff with an award for his outstanding leadership on children's health and safe solutions to hazardous chemicals. Senator Duff has led on environmental and health issues in the legislature for many years, and the Coalition is thrilled that he brings his wisdom and strategic thinking to bills that will help protect the public from unnecessary toxins, and help to stimulate a green chemistry economy in our state. Senator Duff's insights and unwavering support helped strengthen the bill that passed last session and goes into effect today.

While the new lead standards in Connecticut's bill have not yet phased in, shoppers can take some comfort in knowing that the ban on asbestos in children's products and the provision to keep recalled products off of our store shelves, are now in effect. And perhaps most importantly, Connecticut's new law and the media attention surrounding it, helped spur the passage the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Reform Act to protect all children in the U.S. from lead and phthalates in toys.

"This is a clear example of the importance and power of the Connecticut legislature. State leaders can play an important role in spurring federal protection for children's health," said **Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH**, president of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, a CSHC member.

The passage of the federal CPSC Reform Act is also a direct response to a growing movement of parents, scientists and advocates who are raising concerns about unsafe chemicals in consumer products. Months before Congress took action, retailers and manufacturers including Wal-Mart,

Toys-R-Us, and Legos, responded to consumer outcry by announcing plans to phase out phthalates in toys.

“The public cares about these issues and wants safe products for their families, period,” said **Linda Angotto, RN, MSN, ANP**, a nurse who resides in Senator Duff’s district. “It is encouraging to know that our state leaders are willing to listen and support the requests of their constituents, and I hope our state pursues a broad approach to control toxic hazards.”

The Coalition for a Safe & Healthy CT is a growing alliance 35 Connecticut organizations-- health, labor, scientific, environmental, faith and community groups—working to prevent harm to human health and the environment from toxic chemicals. For a full list of coalition partners, please visit our website at [www.safehealthyct.org](http://www.safehealthyct.org)