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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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February 12, 2009

Ms. Kathleen Fasanella
Apparel Technical Svcs
1149 West Picacho Dr
Las Cruces NM 88005

Dear Ms. Fasanella:

It has come to my attention that, as author of the websites "Fashion-Incubator" and "National Bankruptcy Day," you have used an illustration of a tombstone to mark the day on which certain provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act went into effect.

I agree that the Consumer Product Safety Commission, under the leadership of Chair Nancy Nord, has not implemented the law in such a way that provided guidance and answers to business owners in a timely fashion. However, I am outraged and deeply offended that you have chosen to mark February 10th with such irreverence.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act was passed because there are children who have been injured and killed by dangerous products. These are children who were loved by their families but who now lie under actual tombstones. Let me give you some of their names:

Danny – at sixteen months, he was strangled when the top rail of his poorly designed, untested portable crib collapsed around his neck. Danny is one of seventeen babies who died from this particular design.

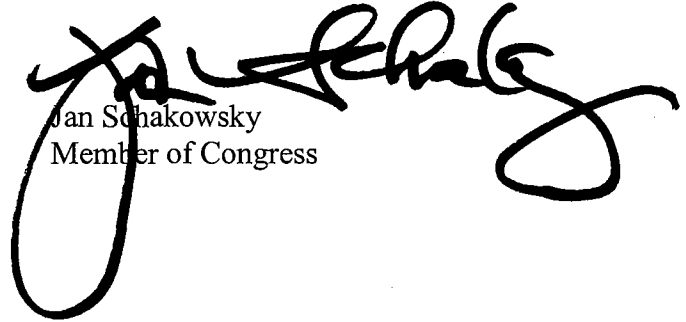
Kenny – on Thanksgiving Day 2005, Kenny died in excruciating pain after swallowing tiny magnets that had fallen out of his older siblings' toys. The toys were sold, even knowing that the magnets fall out and the extreme damage – or in Kenny's case, death – that can result when they are swallowed.

Jarnell – died after swallowing a charm that came free with children's shoes and was 99% lead content.

Liam – who was caught and suffocated in the gap that formed between his crib rail and mattress when the hardware failed.

All of those deaths and many more could have been prevented if a law like the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act had been in place. Out of respect for those children and their families, I hope you will remove all images of tombstones from your sites, tone down your rhetoric, and work to protect children's lives by focusing on product safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Schakowsky". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress