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**Protecting Children from Toxic Toys, Jewelry and Products
HB 62 – Lead Containing Products Prohibition
Passes Out of Maryland House Committee**

BALTIMORE, MD (February 25, 2008) Legislation to protect children from lead-contaminated products (HB 62 cross-filed as SB97) has passed out of the House Health and Government Operations committee with a favorable recommendation.

A national leader in the effort to remove lead from children's products, the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning designed this legislation and are working with Sponsors Delegate James Hubbard (D- Prince Georges County) and Senator Catherine Pugh (D-Baltimore City) and Senator George Della (D- Baltimore City) to pass this Bill to strengthen State oversight of the health risks of imported products – including the ability to ban the sale of toxic products. While home-based lead hazards pose the greatest risk to children, alternative source exposure from lead-contaminated toys, jewelry, homeopathic remedies, water and soil must be addressed.

HB 62 will:

- Mandate that any consumable products, marketed to children under age 6 or products that may be foreseeably used by children under age 6, contain lead in no amount greater than 0.06% weight by total weight for lead-containing products
- Require independent, third-party testing of all children's products (above) and provide certification to retailers and/or the Dept of the Environment upon request.
- Should manufacturers be found in violation of the provision, they may be subject to civil fines ranging from \$1,000 per day for each violation up to a misdemeanor charge and a fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment up to one year for willfully violation.

Childhood lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Low level exposure may result in learning disabilities, lowered IQ, attention disorders, aggressive and violent behavior, hearing loss, and speech delays. High level lead poisoning can lead to coma, convulsions and even death. Lead poisoning remains the #1 environmental health threat facing children across the country.

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning is a nationally recognized leader, committed to the mission of eliminating childhood lead poisoning by 2010 and creating healthy homes so that children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Information about the Coalition is available at www.leadSAFE.org.

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