



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 835

Chairperson: Joel Johnson
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: January 31, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 835 will prevent the sale of any child care article or toy in this state which contains more than a miniscule amount of lead. Lead poisoning can cause irreversible learning disabilities and behavior problems, and at very high levels, seizures, coma, and even death.

Recent tests on more than 1,200 children's products – most of them still on store shelves – found that 35% of the products contain lead in levels far above the federal recall standard used for lead paint. Of the 1,268 items tested only 23 were among those products that were recalled last year.

The Toy Industry Association reports that 80% of the toys sold in the United State are made in China. Last summer more than 20 million toys manufactured in China were recalled because of lead paint and other hazards, despite the fact that lead paint was banned on toys in the United States 30 years ago.

World imports have increased by over 300% since 1974, with imports from China alone increasing nearly 3,900% just since 1985. Yet the budget of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the federal agency responsible for monitoring consumer goods in the United States, is less than half the level it was when the Commission was created in 1974. As a result of budget cuts, the Commission has closed more than 40 field offices and cut its port inspection staff to 15 people nationwide.

Enacting legislation to prevent the sale of these products in Nebraska will help motivate manufacturers to remove the lead and other toxins from children's products.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Don Preister