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**PRESS ADVISORY**

**33rd annual *Trouble in Toyland* report warns parents about dangerous toys**

**WHAT: Congresswoman Kathy Castor, Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital and Florida Consumer Action Network** will release Florida PIRG’s 33rd annual *Trouble in Toyland* survey of dangerous toys on store shelves as holiday gift-buying season begins. This year’s investigation again found hazardous toys for sale that are contaminated by toxic chemicals, spy on kids, or pose choking hazards. The results come from new laboratory tests and research into the safety of popular gifts. We will also unveil a website to help parents evaluate dangerous toys and inform parents of recalled toys they may have already purchased.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 20th11 am

**WHERE:** Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital Children’s Auditorium

 501 6th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL

 Media can park in main circle or to the right of the circle located at main entrance

**WHO: Congresswoman Kathy Castor**,
**Petra Vybiralova, Safety expert** with Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital will demonstrate and discuss the risks of unsafe toys and what to look for

 **Bill Newton**, Florida Consumer Action Network

 **Parents**, including the family of a child who suffered an esophagus and trachea injury after swallowing a button battery, will also be on hand for reaction to the report/visuals of children playing with toys

**VISUALS:** Some of the hazardous toys will be on display for demonstration. The room is a children’s play room with great backgrounds.

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PIRGs, Public Interest Research Groups, are non-profit, non-partisan public interest advocacy organizations that stand up to powerful interests whenever they threaten our health and safety, our financial security, or our right to fully participate in our democratic society.

Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN) is a grassroots organization which empowers citizens to influence public policy by organizing and educating in areas where consumer voices are underrepresented.

Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg is a leader in children’s health care, combining a legacy of compassionate care focused solely on children since 1926 with the innovation and experience of one of the world’s leading health care systems.