

Legislative District 23-A
Prince George's County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Chairman
Public Health and
Long Term Care Subcommittee

Joint Committee on
Children, Youth, and Families

Joint Committee on
Federal Relations

Joint Committee on
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China Works to Defeat Maryland's Lead-free Bill *USTR May Have Alerted China to Legislators Bill*

ANNAPOLIS - At the expense of children's health, China is working to derail Maryland legislation that would limit kids' exposure to lead tainted toys and other products.

According to documents received by the General Assembly, China has expressed concerns that legislation being debated in Maryland to ban the sale and production of lead-containing children's products would violate international trade agreements.

"China's remarks lead me to think they are more concerned with selling us their lead tainted toys than they are with the health of our kids," said Delegate James Hubbard, the bills sponsor.

HB62 attempts to protect Maryland kid's from lead tainted toys, such as those coming from China, and other specific lead tainted products, irrespective of where they are manufactured.

It appears that the United States Trade Representative alerted China to the bill. As a result, China submitted comments to the Maryland General Assembly that the bill would violate international trade agreements if enacted. China's comments are directed at HB 8, which was introduced during last year's special session but was reintroduced as HB62 earlier this year.

"It concerns me deeply that China would interfere in our state's legislative process, telling us how we can and cannot act to protect the best interests of our children," said Hubbard.

Delegate Hubbard has requested the United States Trade Representative to appear before the legislature to explain his and China's actions.

HB62 and its cross filed version SB97 have already been heard in their respective committees.

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