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Larson, DeLauro Support Legislation to End the Import of Toxic Jewelry For Children

Washington, DC- This week, U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) signed on to co-sponsor legislation that will protect our children from exposure to harmful metals in their jewelry. Larson joined Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-03), an original co-sponsor, in supporting H.R. 4428, The Children's Toxic Metals Act, which will prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of children's jewelry that contains cadmium and other toxic metals.

Cadmium is a heavy metal that has been used widely in children's jewelry, exported from China to the United States. Exposure to the metal can cause immediate respiratory and gastrointestinal effects on children. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranks the metal as #7 on its list of hazardous substances but there is currently no ban on the use of cadmium in imported products for children.

"Toxic chemicals and metals should never be in our children's toys. Every parent should know that the jewelry they bring home for their children are safe and harmless," said Congressman Larson. "Plain and simple, cadmium is a dangerous metal and we must act to protect our families from it."

After the passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act in 2008 limiting lead in children's products imported into the United States, many Chinese manufacturers used cadmium in its place because it is cheap to use and it is an abundant metal. Recently stores like Wal-Mart, one of our nation's largest sellers of children toys and jewelry, has pulled from their shelves products that contain cadmium.

Congresswoman DeLauro, who over the years has introduced numerous bills to strengthen our country's consumer product safety laws, continues to be a strong advocate for protecting our children from hazardous toxics and metals.

"From our food, to our medicine, to jewelry, we must be at our most vigilant when our children's safety is at stake. It is astounding to me that a toxic chemical like cadmium is so commonly found in such high concentrations in jewelry specifically made for children—it simply should not be allowed," Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro said.

"Congressman Larson understands the urgent need to act in the face of this dangerous situation, and I look forward to working with him on this worthy bill."

"I can't think of a more committed partner to work with to progress this legislation than Congresswoman DeLauro. She is truly a leader in Congress and our nation when it comes to protecting consumers and our children," said Congressman Larson