

# *You're Invited!*

*CPSIA Rally and Congressional Briefing*

*Capitol Visitors Center*

*Room HVC201 A&B*

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

*10:00 am-11:30 am*

*From:*

*Paul and Valerie Jacobsen and Family*

*Jacobsen Books*

*244 Allen Street, P. O. Box 247*

*Clinton, WI 53525*

With the First Amendment forbidding Congress to abridge our children's right to obtain information and with no child ever poisoned by a book, Congress has acted to classify many children's books published before 1985 as "banned hazardous material," illegal to sell in the United States.

Nearly as bad, Congress has left libraries and bookstores with no way to distinguish the illegal books from legal ones. Our children's heritage of twentieth-century literature is in danger. Most twentieth century children's titles are out-of-print in any form. Those few that are in print are typically not available in the sturdy hardcover copies that many readers prefer. The market will not allow for wide reprinting of older children's books, but old books continue to serve as a tie between generations, within families and as a useful resource in classrooms. They must be restored to full legality without delay.

We have no evidence that the loss of children's books will prevent even a single death or disability, but we do know that libraries will be decimated, schools will be damaged, American families will be hurt, and children will be harmed. We also know that the loss of books from charity book sales will be devastating to low income children who have no other way to obtain books of their own.

Jacobsen Books is run by Paul and Valerie Jacobsen and supports our eleven children, Heather, Kristen, Kelsey, Katelyn, Heidi, Alicia, Amalie, Erik, David, Rebekah and Gunnar. This business provides food, clothing, shelter, and other needs for our family. Jacobsen Books should be permitted to thrive, so that we can continue to sell low-cost books to children and families, but our business has instead been decimated.

If there had been a fire at our store, so that half of our inventory had been lost in a day, anyone with eyes to see would have recognized this as a great tragedy for our family. Truthfully, half of our inventory *was* lost in a day, and the destruction came at the hands of the United States Congress. We know that the effect of CPSIA on children's books was accidental and unforeseen, but now we see our many pleas for relief ignored by Congress. It is time that our nation listen.

Due to the devastating effect of CPSIA on our family business, we cannot afford to come to Washington on April 1st, but we beg you to listen to those people who will be there and who will speak for us. Please set aside time in your schedule now. Please attend this rally and hear what people have to say. If you cannot find it in your heart to listen, then you will never understand how badly CPSIA is hurting American children.

*Thank you.*