



VICTORY!

## Governor Signs Bill Banning Lead in Candy

FACT Grantee EHC's Bill To Protect Children From Lead in Candy is now Law!

On October 7, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger responded to thousands of letters and calls demanding action. He signed AB121, authored by Assembly Member Juan Vargas, D-San Diego that bans the sale of lead-tainted candy.

This new law will get rid of the lead in contaminated candies that are coming from other countries, but mostly from Mexico. The Environmental Health Coalition has been working for nearly four years to eliminate lead in candy through its Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning. Leticia Ayala, director of the campaign, said, "This is a tremendous victory for children, parents and everyone who cares about protecting our health. Our children should not be eating these poisons." Ayala continued, "The Governor has done the right thing by putting children first. With hundreds of children's letters on his desk and hundreds of phone calls to his office, the message is loud and clear: candy manufacturers cannot continue to profit at the expense of our children's health."

This is a clear victory for the community as a strong coalition of grass roots environmental justice, environmental and health organizations came together with parents and children to make this common sense rule a reality.

AB 121 is the first law of its kind nationwide and will go into effect on January 1, 2006.

This law will:

- Establish a health-based standard for lead in candy
- Provide clear authority to the Department of Health Services to test, ban and chili and tamarind candies contaminated with lead
- Prohibit the sale of chili and tamarind candies contaminated with lead
- Proactively test chili and tamarind candies before being allowed to be sold
- Require issuance of health advisories when lead has been found in candies to warn parents, health departments and school districts

For more information contact:

Leticia Ayala  
Campaign Director  
Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning  
(619) 474-0220 ext. 121  
[LeticiaA@environmentalhealth.org](mailto:LeticiaA@environmentalhealth.org)