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## **CHICAGO PEDIATRICIAN APPLAUDS AAP WARNING ON CHILD SHOPPING CART SAFETY; CALLS FOR REDESIGN**

### ***New Shopping Cart Design Can Prevent Thousands of Yearly Injuries in US***

**CHICAGO-** Dr. Joseph Russell, a practicing pediatrician and creator of a modified shopping-cart child seat, applauded the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) today for issuing a policy statement calling for parents to seek alternatives to placing children in shopping carts, but he cautioned that children “will not be safe” until a design modification is implemented in stores.

Dr. Russell, of Plainfield, Ill., has been advocating for use of a new child seat design for shopping carts that would lower the child’s center of gravity and dramatically reduce the tens of thousands of injuries a year to children from shopping cart accidents.

“The AAP has made an important statement by helping to raise awareness of the dangers that shopping carts present for young children,” Dr. Russell said. “But it is time for manufacturers, retailers and the government to agree that the design of shopping carts must change to safely protect our children.”

After treating numerous shopping cart related injuries, Dr. Russell has spent the last eight years studying the problem with engineers. They have concluded that the current shopping carts pose a serious health risk to children due to the dangerously high center of gravity for the seated child.

“Clearly, the present day shopping cart and child seat design presents a serious risk of injury due to the tip-over hazard, and falls from the seat,” Dr. Russell said, noting that the accompanying safety belts do not alter nor address the dangerously high center of gravity. “Working with engineers, we have developed a cart with a redesigned rear gate, and other modifications, that can prevent a substantial number of injuries in the future.”

But despite a minimal increase in cost for producing safer carts, neither the shopping cart manufacturers nor retailers, have expressed interest in adopting the new design, which can prevent this type of injury. Manufacturers appear content, preferring to shift the onus to education as opposed to a cart re-design.

“It is very frustrating,” said Dr. Russell, who has discussed the issue with retailers and cart manufacturers. “We have the ability to prevent many of these injuries to children, and I believe we have a responsibility to try. We are launching a campaign to increase awareness that current shopping carts pose a health risk, and that a cost effective solution is readily available.”

More information can be found at [www.sittinsafe.com](http://www.sittinsafe.com).

In today’s policy statement, the AAP recommended that parents consider alternatives to placing children in shopping carts, until carts are properly redesigned to prevent injury. The AAP also recommended that child health and advocacy professionals support revised manufacturer standards, and educate parents, families, the public, and the media on shopping cart risks.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has determined that shopping cart falls are among the leading causes of head injuries to young children — with no signs of decreasing. “While CPSC tallies the injuries, they don’t track the complications these children may have later in life,” Dr. Russell said. “In some instances, these kids suffer significant harm that can negatively impact their lives. This health hazard is unnecessary.”

Dr. Russell urged that “stronger action” is needed by the government, manufacturers and retailers to better protect children. “Many of these injuries are foreseeable and preventable,” he said. “The government, manufacturers and retailers just need the desire to make shopping carts safer.”