



## Local AAUW Book Sale Volunteers: *Federal Restrictions on Used Children's Books Lifted*

Recently, AAUW notified branches that the federal government had imposed restrictions on reselling children's books published before 1986 due to concerns that they contained unacceptable levels of lead in their ink.<sup>i</sup> However, after lobbying from AAUW and other groups,<sup>ii</sup> the House and Senate recently passed legislation<sup>iii</sup> that would exempt "ordinary" books intended for children over three years of age from the law's testing requirements, and President Obama will soon sign this exemption into law. ***Once enacted, the lesser restrictions will allow resale of the overwhelming majority of used children's books with extremely limited exceptions.***

### **What You Need to Know**

- The legislation expands a recently-imposed stay of enforcement on book testing and removes the requirement to test products produced before 1986, which were not included under the original stay of enforcement on testing.
- Certain resale items will not be excluded from the testing requirement when it resumes in January 1, 2012. These items include: 1) Books designed or intended for a child 3 years or younger; 2) Books with "inherent play value" (such as a coloring book); 3) Novelty books; and 4) Toys or other articles that are not books and sold or packaged with a book. *Until then, testing requirements for these books will not be enforced.*

Please contact Beth Scott, AAUW's regulatory affairs manager, at 202-728-7617 or [scottb@aauw.org](mailto:scottb@aauw.org), with any questions.

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<sup>i</sup> American Association of University Women. (January 2011). *New Federal Restrictions on Selling Children's Books*. Retrieved August 3, 2011, from [www.aauw.org/member\\_center/branches\\_states/upload/Federal-Restrictions-on-Selling-Children-s-Books.pdf?emc=lm&m=51457&l=48&v=1924671](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/branches_states/upload/Federal-Restrictions-on-Selling-Children-s-Books.pdf?emc=lm&m=51457&l=48&v=1924671).

<sup>ii</sup> American Association of University Women. (July 15, 2011). *Request to Include Revised Lead Regulations for Children's Books in the Commission's Agenda and Priorities FY 2013*. Retrieved August 9, 2011, from [www.aauw.org/act/issue\\_advocacy/actionpages/upload/Comments\\_CPSC.pdf](http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/actionpages/upload/Comments_CPSC.pdf).

<sup>iii</sup> U.S. Government Printing Office. (August 2011). *H.R. 2715*. Retrieved August 9, 2011, from [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr2715enr/pdf/BILLS-112hr2715enr.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr2715enr/pdf/BILLS-112hr2715enr.pdf).