

Support the Ban Water Beads Act (HR 6468)

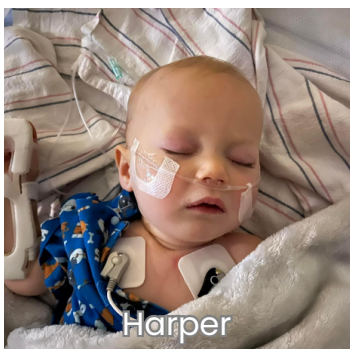


Kipley's Story

One-year-old Kipley was severely injured by water beads. In April of 2017, water beads were purchased online for Kipley's older sister, Abigail's, sixth birthday. The beads arrived without a warning label or directions. Kipley's parents provided diligent supervision while Abigail played, did not allow Kipley to play with the beads, maintained separate play areas, and cleaned up after use. Unbeknownst to the family, Kipley somehow found and ingested a water bead, which formed a blockage in her small intestine. The water bead material was inside Kipley's gastrointestinal tract for approximately 70 days before it was discovered and removed during emergency exploratory surgery in July 2017.

Having triumphed through a major surgery, Kipley's family felt an overwhelming sense of relief as they brought her back home. Despite their best efforts to resume a normal life, a subtle but unsettling shift began to unfold. Kipley's coordination slipped away; she was floppier and weaker. She stopped signing, talking, and consistently answering to her name. Desperate for answers, Kipley's family turned to her pediatrician, only to have their concerns brushed aside time and again. Kipley's parents persisted, and her pediatrician begrudgingly put in referrals. Early Intervention evaluated Kipley in September of 2017. The evaluation specialists informed the family that their concerns for Kipley were valid; she was experiencing new delays in her development. In October of 2017, Kipley was diagnosed with a brain injury - Toxic Brain Encephalopathy - due to chemical exposure from the water beads.

Kipley is now 7 years old. Her water bead injury impacted the trajectory of her life. Kipley's dream is to "keep friends safe" from water beads. In order to prevent water bead injuries, caregivers and healthcare providers must understand their risks and the beads must be prevented from being introduced into spaces where children visit, learn, and play. Ceasing the sale and marketing of water beads as toys is crucial to ensuring these hazardous beads are kept out of homes, schools, and therapy clinics entirely.



Water beads have been shown to cause severe injuries to children:

- Dermatitis Rash
- Nasal Cavity Injury
- Hearing Loss
- Lung damage
- Intestinal Obstruction
- Bowel Perforation
- Infection
- Chemical Exposure
- Brain Injury
- Toxic Encephalopathy
- Seizure
- Sepsis
- Septic Shock
- Asphyxiation
- Death

Learn More About
Water Beads Dangers



That Water Bead Lady

That Water Bead Lady

HR 6468 Ban Water Beads Act

To protect the health and well-being of children and pets across the country, HR 6468 would classify water bead products as banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, 180 days after the legislation is enacted regardless of manufacture or import date. A "water bead product" is defined as containing superabsorbent polymers (like polyacrylamides and polyacrylates), comprising beads small enough to fit within a specific cylinder at sale, but expandable to at least 3mm in one dimension when wet, and intended or marketed as a toy.

Why Action is needed

- Water beads, composed of super absorbent chemicals, can grow hundreds of times their original size when placed in liquid. These beads are not only challenging to spot once they dry up and shrink, but are also difficult to completely remove from children's environments once introduced. This makes them a persistent hazard, especially for pets and small children who might find and ingest them.
- Despite appearing similar to candy, water beads present serious long term and life threatening health risks when ingested, inhaled, or inserted by children, often happening unbeknownst to caregivers. **These incidents occur even in households where caregivers are vigilant, adhering to strict adult supervision, product age recommendations, and usage directions.** The ongoing occurrences of ingestion, insertion, or inhalation of these beads emphasize the significant dangers associated with water bead use in the spaces children live and visit.
- **The medical risks posed by water beads are exacerbated by their near invisibility on diagnostic imaging**, such as X-rays. This characteristic makes it challenging for healthcare providers to identify, diagnose, and treat issues arising from their ingestion, inhalation, or insertion. Consequently, this often results in delayed medical care, heightening the risk of serious complications.
- The severity of the issue is highlighted by the alarming statistic that **U.S. hospitals treated an estimated 7,800 water bead-related injuries between 2016 and 2022. Yet, there has only been 1 voluntary recall of water bead products in the last decade.** The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is aware of at least one domestic death, and multiple deaths outside of the US.
- Major retailers like Amazon, Walmart, Target, Etsy, Michaels, Macy's, Kohl's, and others have acted responsibly by implementing policies to protect young consumers, ceasing the sale of water beads marketed as toys. However, despite these actions, the pressing need for legislative measures remains. Policies vary, and not all companies have implemented responsible practices.

Support HR 6468

Join the public's bipartisan call to ban water bead toys!

The Ban Water Beads Act has garnered support from a range of esteemed organizations, highlighting its importance and the widespread concern over the safety of water bead products. This support includes notable groups such as The American Academy of Pediatrics, North American Society For Pediatric Gastroenterology, That Water Bead Lady, Consumer Reports, Kids in Danger, Safe Kids Worldwide, Reese's Purpose, Consumer Federation of America, and others.

The backing of these organizations underscores the act's significance in advocating for children's safety and the urgent need for regulatory action to protect against the dangers posed by water bead toy products.



[Read HR 6468.](#)



Esther



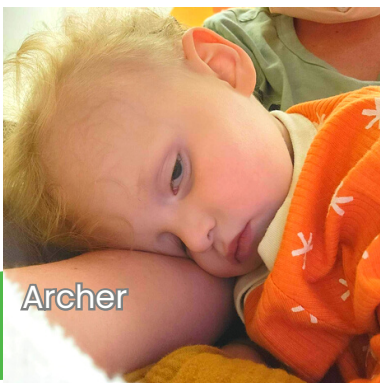
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